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GROIN INJURY HITS LUPUL WHERE IT HURTS

LEAFS WINGER FRUSTRATED BY INABILITY TO GET BACK ON ICE PAGE 57

Accidentally tweeting your spouse's death

Woman monitoring police scanners remarks on how awful car-crash death is — then hears the truth PAGE 14

Ford's football fantasy — hot guys play hard

Mayor tells radio host that women win lots of football bets by simply picking the cutest dudes in tights PAGE 6

Women with cameras? It's crazy but true

Female actors and directors, including goofy gals turning to serious roles, set to light up Sundance 2014 PAGE 31

NELSON MANDELA

Former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela in 2005. More coverage on pages 3 and 26. GIANLUIGI GUERCIA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

An honourary Canadian dies at 95. South African president mourns loss of anti-apartheid hero, his nation's 'greatest son'

Nelson Mandela was a master of forgiveness. South Africa's first black president spent nearly a third of his life as a prisoner of apartheid, the system of racist white rule, yet he sought to win over its defeated guardians in a relatively peaceful transition of power that inspired the world.

As head of state, the ex-boxer, lawyer and inmate lunched with the prosecutor who argued successfully for his incarceration, sang the apartheid-era Afrikaans anthem at his inauguration and travelled hundreds of miles to have tea with the widow of Hendrik Verwoerd, who was prime minister at the time he was sent to prison and the architect of white rule.

It was this generosity of spirit that made Mandela, who died on Thursday at the age of 95, a global symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation.

Dressed in black, South African President Jacob Zuma announced that Mandela died "peacefully" while with his family at around 8:50 p.m. on Thursday.

"We've lost our greatest son. Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost a father," Zuma said. "Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of a profound and enduring loss."

South Africans are reacting to the death of Mandela, considered by many to be the father of the nation, with deep sadness. One Johannesburg resident, 31-year-old Hamsa Moosa, said he "wouldn't be free" if not for the man affectionately known by his clan name "Madiba."

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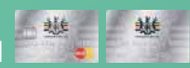

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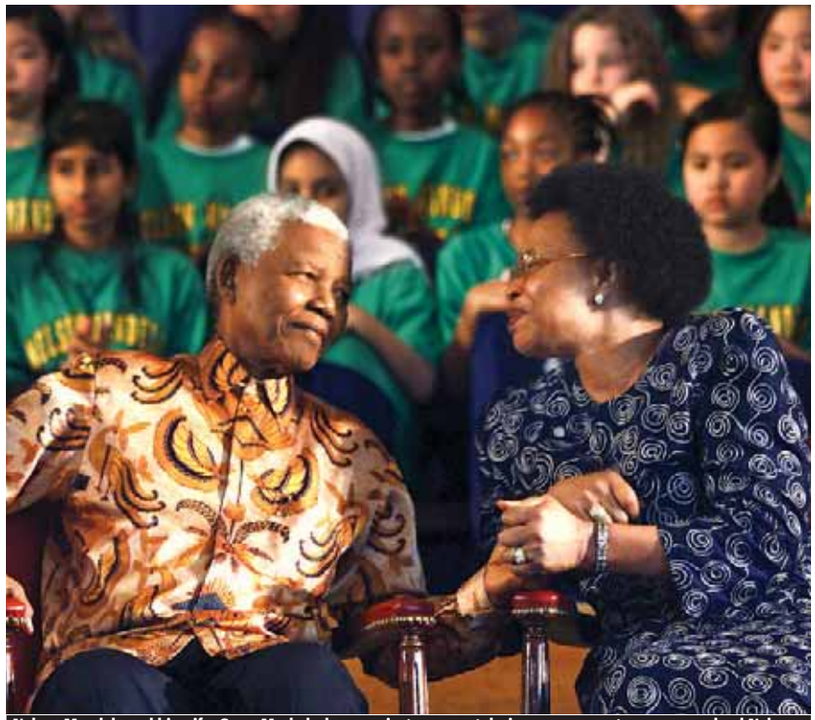
Memories of Mandela still resonate for Torontonians

Anecdotes. The beloved South African leader visited the city in 1990, 1998 and 2001

Nelson Mandela graced Toronto with his presence on three separate occasions after his release from prison in 1990. Here, three people share their memories of their brief but precious encounters with the South African icon in Toronto.



Nelson Mandela and his wife, Graca Machel, share a private moment during a ceremony to rename a school Nelson Mandela Park Public School in Toronto on Nov. 17, 2001. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

June 1990: Just months after his release from prison, Mandela made a three-day visit to Canada. His jam-packed schedule in Toronto included ceremonies at Queen's Park and meeting with 1,000 students at Central Technical School. North York resident Ebrahim Moolla saw Mandela at the Westin Harbour Castle, where the anti-apartheid leader dined with then-prime minister Brian Mulroney and met with Canadian supporters of the African National Congress.

The first time Moolla met Mandela, it was in South Africa and the young black lawyer standing before him was making a powerful speech about rising up against the unjust laws of apartheid.

One year later, in 1952, Moolla marched into the township of Boksburg along with Mandela and 50 others. They were all arrested that day and Moolla, just 21 at the time, was imprisoned for four months. It was the first of several stints in jail over the years — so many the 82-year-old has now lost count.

September 1998: The next time Mandela visited Toronto, it was as South Africa's first black president, having won the country's first democratic election in 1994. The main event of the three-day Canadian visit was held at the SkyDome, now the Rogers Centre, where Mandela addressed 40,000 students. Among them was 10-year-old Salma Ali from Rexdale.

Ali didn't really understand what apartheid was, nor had she heard of Mandela before. But her teacher at John D. Parker Junior School had explained that Mandela was a South African icon who had spent 27 years in jail fighting for what he believed in. "That was pretty huge, even for us 10-year-olds," she recalls.

November 2001: During Mandela's third and final visit to Toronto, he attended the naming of Nelson Mandela Park Public School in Regent Park, the first school outside of South Africa to be named after the anti-apartheid leader. He and his wife, Graca Machel, were also given honorary degrees at Ryerson University, where Toronto store owner Hafsah Patel managed to steal a few precious moments with Mandela.

More than 50 years had passed since Patel last saw the tall, distinguished man now walking out of Ryerson University. And without even thinking, she shouted his name: "Nelson!"

Patel was born in South Africa in 1938 and grew up in a suburb just outside of Johannesburg. Her father was Ismail Cachalia, better known as Molvi, and he had acted as Mandela's volunteer deputy-in-chief during the Defiance Campaign that began in 1952, South Africa's largest non-violent resistance against the all-white government.

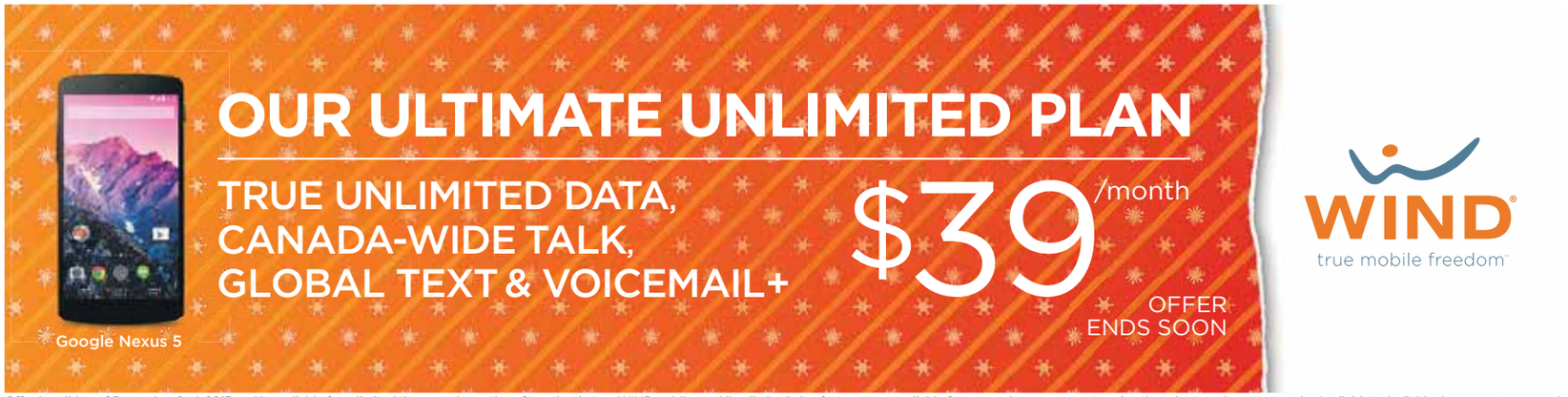
Patel still remembers how every time "Nelson" came over, her father would rustle up the children and command them to help their mother cook meat for their guest. She never understood the nature of these "secretive visits" but recalls how Mandela — ever stylish in his brown pants and bomber jacket — always made time for the children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"When we used to see him — we were five of us, four sisters and a brother — we used to rush to him. He used to run with us and catch with us and laugh."

Hafsah Patel, recounting her childhood encounters with Nelson Mandela



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Is Ford dragging us down?

Toronto seeking grey area between boring and on crack. Among Americans, 29 per cent say scandal has worsened their view of the city

Mayor Rob Ford is so notorious, he is dragging down the reputation of Toronto and Canada in the eyes of Americans, a new poll suggests.

A Pollara survey conducted in the U.S. and provided to Torstar News Service found almost one-third of respondents — 29 per cent — had a worse view of Toronto because of the news about Ford's crack cocaine use and other controversies.

"It's a black eye. It's probably not a facial scar. It will heal," Dan Arnold, Pollara's associate vice-president, said Thursday.

Ten per cent of respondents said the mayor's behaviour had actually improved their impression of Toronto, while 61 per cent said it's had no impact.

Some 18 per cent said the story has left them with a worse view of Canada as a whole, while nine per cent said it has improved feelings toward their northern neighbour, and 74 per cent claimed it had no effect.

Why run for PM?

50 vs. 18

According to the Pollara survey, half of Americans polled were familiar with Rob Ford — compared to just 18 per cent for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Since the Toronto Star and the U.S. website Gawker reported the existence of a video apparently showing Ford smoking crack in May and a subsequent Toronto police probe into his links to alleged drug dealers, he has made headlines around the world.

Ford's infamy has made him far better known in the U.S. than Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Half of Americans polled were familiar with Ford — compared with just 18 per cent for Harper, who has been in office for almost eight years.

"Definitely he is a household name in the United States, which is a rarity for Canadian politicians," Arnold said of the Toronto mayor.

Arnold said Ford has become such a staple of U.S. cable news and the nightly comedy talk shows that American television viewers know instantly who commentators are discussing.

"He's become not just the joke, but the punch line," the pollster said.

"Toronto's always wanted to be 'world-class' and to be known by Americans. And for better or worse — and it's probably a bit more on the worse side here — we've definitely become known there," he said.

"One of the reasons Americans have taken an interest is Canada's got this reputation for being very polite and very nice and kind of boring for our politicians, and Ford is anything but that. Because it runs counter to what Americans think about (Canada) is one reason why the story has popped there."

The survey's results suggest a downside to Ford's notoriety, if American investors take note.

"This could definitely impact Toronto's reputation and businesses," said Arnold, adding it's "something that people should keep an eye on." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford returns from a workout during a break in the executive committee hearings at Toronto City Hall on Thursday. While polls show continuous scandals have taken a toll, 10 per cent of Americans actually like us better now. Take note, customs officials. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who d'ya know?

Pollara's online survey of 1,001 Americans was conducted between Nov. 22 and Nov. 27, and results are considered accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

That guy with his shirt off

64%

Only Russian President Vladimir Putin was ahead of Ford in terms of recognition of international politicians.

From the royal wedding?

38%

British Prime Minister David Cameron was recognized by 38 per cent of respondents.

Bunga whatta?

25%

Per cent who recognized former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi

Well, Xi whiz

21%

Chinese President Xi Jinping

What are T.O.'s business elites doing about Ford? Quietly applying cost-benefit analysis: Historian

Mayor Rob Ford uses a security guard as a shield as he makes his way back to an executive committee meeting at Toronto City Hall on Thursday.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When it comes to the Rob Ford crack scandal, civic leaders say it's time to speak out.

"Does the tepid response from Toronto's elites contribute to the moral vacuum at city hall? Absolutely," said Peter MacLeod, co-founder of the public engagement firm MASS LBP.

"We do need some of our finest and most successful citizens to remind us that we deserve better."

Not only are Torontonians not in the streets banging pots and pans like Quebecers were last year, he said, but the business leaders, cultural elites and intellectuals have been conspicuously absent in condemning the mayor for doing drugs, consorting with known criminals, drinking and driving, and other illegal activities.

At Queen's Park Thursday, a sole MPP stepped forward to condemn Ford's actions.

"It is time for the mayor to step aside," said Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Brad Duguid. "I think we all know, I think Torontonians know, this has been challenging for our city. It has been embarrassing; it has not been good for our reputation. It is time to move forward."

As politicians like Duguid and federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney slowly emerge, it's all the more striking that our business elites have steered clear of public pronouncements, MacLeod said.

Historian Alan Levine says business leaders are keeping a low profile out of fear of retribution.

"From a business person's perspective … the downside of going public probably outweighs the benefits of drawing attention to yourself on such a volatile issue that is sure to garner lots of media attention," he wrote in an email.

Roger Keil, former director of York University's City Institute, sees a much more insidious force at work: a shared fiscally conservative agenda.

"There isn't actually anybody in the Toronto elites — the big business people, the big banks, the big land developers — none of these people have any interest in dressing down Ford too much because he's one of them," he said.

"(Ford) did some of the dirty work that a lot of people in the ruling circles of Toronto have been wanting to do for quite some time. That doesn't include hanging out with gang members, but it includes opening up the privatization of public services, disciplining public workers and destroying public unions," he said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Quoted

"I believe it has something to do with the private mindset of Canadian business people, a mindset that has been ingrained in business culture in the city and country for a very long time."

Levine, author of the forthcoming book Toronto: A Life and Times, on why he believes prominent business voices have been silent

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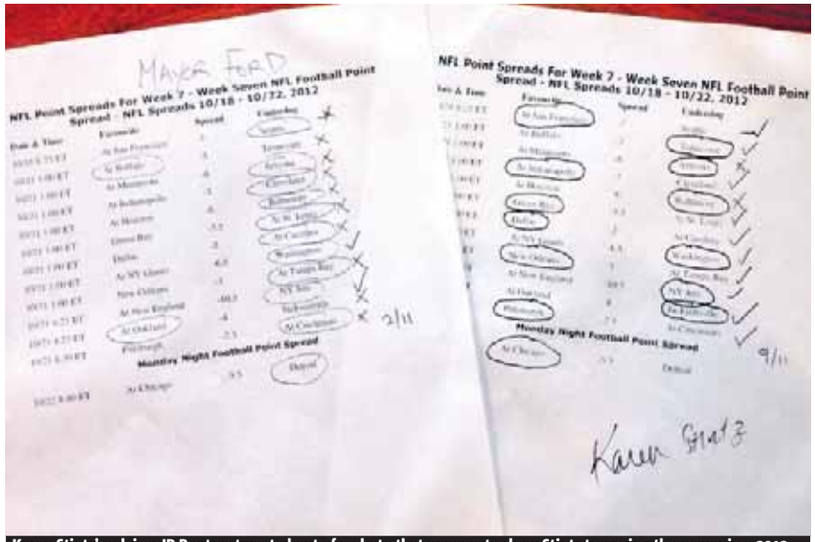

Karen Stintz's adviser JP Boutros tweeted out of a photo that appears to show Stintz trouncing the mayor in a 2012 pool, betting right on nine out of 11 games, to Ford's two. COURTESY OF JP BOUTROS

Female football betters pick cute over stats: Ford

Up in Canada.
Mayor posits infallible theory on U.S. sports-radio show

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

According to Mayor Rob Ford, Canadian women win football pools all the time — they just choose the cutest guy who looks best in tights.

In Ford's first interview since the wiretap transcripts alleging drug use and blackmail were released Wednesday, he talked football to Washington D.C.'s Sports Junkies radio over the phone on Thursday morning.

Ford offered his picks for NFL wins, and when the hosts asked about football betting in Canada, the mayor said he plays ProLine and bets in his office pool frequently. Then, possibly baiting Ford, a host asked about women.

Host: "Does it upset you when women win the pool?"

Ford: "A lot of females up in Toronto, women up here, win all the time."

Host: "Yeah, but they don't know anything."

Ford: "I know, but they just choose the cutest guy, who looks best in their tights, and that's how they pick 'em. And they win."

In response, Karen Stintz's adviser JP Boutros tweeted a photo that appears to show Stintz trouncing the mayor in a 2012 pool, betting right on nine out of 11 games, to Ford's two.

According to Boutros, Stintz played regularly, basing her picks on football knowledge, not cuteness, and regularly beat Ford. He also tweeted a photo of Stintz with former NFL quarterback and The Bachelor contestant Jesse Palmer.

Both Stintz and Ford are planning to run in the 2014 mayoral election.

Survey says ...

Taxi Confessions: The Work Environment

Play Taxi Media, the national network of in-taxi touchscreens, surveyed over 5,000 men and women in November 2013 on their behaviour in the workforce. The results are interesting, to say the least!

Have you ever stolen from your place of employment? Would you believe that 40 per cent of men and women admit stealing from work? Even more staggering is that when asked about their salary, those that consider themselves to be "overpaid" are the most common kleptomaniacs. There may be some coal in a few stockings this holiday season!

Have you ever had an office romance (fling or relationship)? Forty-four per cent of men admit to having an intimate relationship at work, with 48 per cent of women admitting the same. It seems that sparks fly when burning the candle at both ends!

Has a boss/superior ever made an advance towards you? Thirty per cent of men reported that a superior has crossed a professional line, with 41 per cent of women saying they have had a similar experience. Who says love can't start in the workplace?

Play Taxi Media would like to sincerely thank our riders for their honest responses. Be on the lookout January 2014 for part 2 of Play's Taxi Confessions!

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Helping kids, one MP on a unicycle at a time

Olivia Chow, MP of Trinity-Spadina, seen here on a unicycle, was on hand for the opening of an off-hours pediatric clinic at 491 Eglinton Ave. W. this week. Concerned about a gap in urgent pediatric care, a group of doctors with years of SickKids emergency-room experience decided to start kid-E-care to treat children hurt during times when most clinics are closed. CONTRIBUTED

Grocery-chain wars expected to drive down prices

Food Price Index.
Dairy, egg products set to see 1.5% drop in 2014 as competition for Canadians' food dollars starts cooking

The battle between Canada's food retailers is expected to make a winner out of shoppers next year.

Prices for dairy and egg products are expected to drop up to 1.5 per cent, and other staples could see similar declines as the competition for Canadians' grocery dollars heats up, according to the Food Price Index.

The annual report by the University of Guelph predicts that general food expenditures will rise by 0.3 per cent to 2.6 per cent overall in 2014 — a "quite modest" increase, according to Sylvain Charlebois, lead author of the report.

"2012 and 2013 were decent years for consumers of less means," he said. "And we expect that to continue in the new year."

Target's arrival in Canada this spring "created a disturbance in the food-retailing force," said Charlebois, a Guelph economics professor specializing in food distribution and policy. Grocery chain Metro is closing stores in Ontario, and Loblaw and Walmart released lacklustre quarterly results last month.

In order to compete, grocers have been dropping prices on loss leaders — low-cost staples such as milk, spices, peanut butter, coffee, tea and pasta. There were more low-priced products on store shelves last year, Charlebois said.

At the same time, 2013 was a particularly good year for global agriculture, especially key crops such as corn, wheat, barley, soya and rice, Charlebois said.

"It was so good, they have actually built up inventories for the next year," he said. "That's why we feel price increases will be minimal."

Other sectors are also set for modest increases in 2014, according to the index: Meat prices are expected to rise 0.6 to 2.1 per cent; grains, 0.2 to two per cent; fruit and nuts, 0.6 to 1.2 per cent; and vegetables, 1.4 to 2.1 per cent.

Prices for fish and seafood are expected to rise by three to five per cent, and demand for "added value" foods — sustainable, locally grown, gluten-free, organic, etc. — are expected to keep rising. That was Loblaw's strategy for its purchase of Shoppers Drug Mart, with its locations in major city centres, Charlebois said.

"Loblaw's game is to get access to markets where consumers can cope with high prices," he said. "If it's executed properly, it will probably pay off for Loblaw."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

High cost of low prices?

If prices stay too low for too long, retailers don't invest in research and development, distribution or other areas that help consumers in the long run, the report says.

- Consumers can expects to see more supermarket closures or company mergers next year as a result.

Quoted

"There is a price war out there. Retailers are desperate to maintain market share."
Sylvain Charlebois, lead author of report

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EFFORTS CONTINUE TO TRANSFORM, MODERNIZE THE TTC

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

As the year draws to a close, it is good to take stock of what has been achieved over the last 12 months.

Delivery against our Customer Charter has continued apace. Feedback has reflected improved customer satisfaction with the cleanliness and appearance of trains and stations, which is encouraging as we have put a lot of effort into this. We are now focusing on cleaner buses, streetcars and the SRT vehicles.

Customers tell me that the level and quality of information has improved, too, although I feel we have a long way to go before we achieve an acceptable, consistent standard.

Specific targets met include Pape Station modernization, and making the station accessible to customers using wheelchairs, scooters and baby strollers. By the end of the year, we will also introduce the first of our new articulated buses into service, while roll-out of the new streetcar fleet gets ever closer as we continue to gain experience with our test vehicles.

Of course, reliability and punctuality remain top priorities. This summer has seen a huge amount of construction across the city. Despite that, bus and streetcar punctuality have improved year over year.

Finally, we are making progress on delivery of our Five-Year Corporate Plan to modernize the TTC. This requires a top-to-bottom culture change. I am personally leading an extended program of briefings to all of our employees so everyone understands what needs to be done to transform the customer experience and to drive up the quality of our service.

FINAL BREAKTHROUGH

Construction of the twin tunnels is complete for the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension. Here, contractors and TTC staff recently celebrated the final breakthrough of Torkie. The extension will begin service in the fall of 2016.

THE KINDER WAY

When riding the TTC, please be aware of your surroundings and secure your personal belongings, such as smartphones and MP3 players.

RECYCLE

Please keep the TTC litter-free. Recycle your reading materials in any station or platform receptacle.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name:
Jeffrey Kay

Position:
System Planner

Years of Service:
8

I grew up in mid-town Toronto and from a young age traveled around the city on the TTC. My work in preparing the annual service plan gets me involved with introducing the new vehicles and the new procedures we use to carry more customers every day. The plan helps get the increasing number of operators and vehicles to the parts of the system where they are most needed. I enjoy working with the data that will assist the TTC in delivering transit service in an efficient manner.

EVENTS

DEC. 7:

- **Toronto Marlies at Ricoh Coliseum.** 511 Bathurst streetcar. For an accessible connection, 509 Harbourfront bus to Exhibition Place.
- **The Big Jingle at Air Canada Centre.** Subway to Union Station.

DEC. 8 & 11:

- **Toronto Maple Leafs at Air Canada Centre.** Subway to Union Station.

DEC. 10:

- **Toronto Raptors at Air Canada Centre.** Subway to Union Station.

SERVICE CHANGES

- **501/301 Queen** and **508 Lake Shore** streetcars turning back east at Humber Loop, with replacement buses operating on Lake Shore between Humber Loop and Long Branch Loop diverting via Park Lawn and The Queensway until Dec. 22 due to platform work.

NO SUBWAY SERVICE UNION TO ST ANDREW ON DEC. 7-8

Ongoing, scheduled construction of the second platform at Union Station means no subway service between Union and St Andrew stations on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8.

All trains on the Yonge line will terminate southbound at Union Station. All trains on the University-Spadina line will terminate southbound at St Andrew Station. Customers must use the Yonge line to reach Union Station, especially those heading to the Big Jingle event at the Air Canada Centre this Saturday or the Maple Leafs game this Sunday.

For customers who require accessible transit, a Wheel-Trans vehicle will be available at Union and St Andrew stations. Customers are asked to speak with any uniformed TTC employee at either station.

Regular subway service will resume on Monday, Dec. 9 at 6 a.m.

HOW TO CONTACT US:
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Customer Service 416-393-3030
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Sears

C-section forced on mentally ill woman

Britain. Risk of her womb rupturing in delivery; court approved use of 'reasonable restraint' for the surgery

A newly released court judgment says that doctors were medically justified in forcing an Italian woman to have a cesarean section last year because it was in her best interests.

At a hearing of Britain's Court of Protection in August 2012, Justice Nicholas Mostyn declared doctors should be allowed to force Alessandra Pacchieri, 35, to have a C-section because a natural delivery risked rupturing her womb.

Quoted

"A predictable home could only be secured by way of adoption."

A British court ruled in February, although the mom "very much wished" to parent the baby girl, the ruling said.

There were also concerns that if Pacchieri was uncooperative when she went into labour, doctors would be unable to monitor the baby's heartbeat and to see whether Pacchieri's womb might rupture. In his decision, Mostyn authorized the use of "reasonable restraint" to perform the C-section safely.

Pacchieri previously had two elective C-sections and suffered from "a significant mental disorder which is psychotic in nature," Mostyn wrote in his declaration. She had been detained in an east London hospital for several weeks before having the C-section.

The Court of Protection makes decisions for people deemed unable to decide for themselves. It said the ruling was released because of public interest in the case.

Pacchieri is now contesting a British decision to put the child, a girl, up for adoption. Pacchieri's name was disclosed in a press release by her lawyer Stefano Oliva, which said she will appeal against her baby's adoption. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kawartha Lakes, Ont.

Mystery woman leaves 'uranium' with police; no ID

Police are looking for a woman who walked into a police station with a container labelled "85 per cent uranium."

Kawartha Lakes Police say she was asking for advice on how to dispose of it. Cops believe the material came from a Kirkland Lake mine where her grandfather worked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social media plea

Lost suitcase full of Christmas gifts returned

A Regina woman who lost her suitcase on the highway is no longer singing the blues. Trina Owens reached out on social media and Kijiji after her suitcase fell off the back of a truck. It was full of Christmas presents she'd just bought on a shopping trip to the U.S. Her plea paid off — the case was returned. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Demo halted for Thai king

An anti-government protester holds a picture of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej as prayers are said during a celebration of his 86th birthday at the democracy monument which protesters have been occupying in Bangkok. Protesters agreed to halt their activities to pay respect on the king's birthday. ED WRAY/GETTY IMAGES

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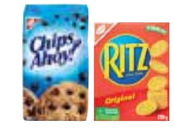

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

The Arctic. Ocean acidity could damage food web

Scientists huddled in a sea-ice camp on the Arctic Ocean have produced new evidence that climate change could be threatening the food web in the Far North.

The researchers found that copepods — a key component of the Arctic food web, are likely to react poorly to increasingly acidic water caused by high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"There were certainly possibilities for these animals to be affected," said Ceri Lewis of the University of Exeter, lead author of a paper published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Arctic Ocean is acidifying faster than any other on Earth and all oceans are gradually losing pH.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's a copepod?

Copepods are tiny crustaceans, eaten by everything from fish to whales.

- They are one of the foundations of the marine ecosystem.

Happy meal

Don't bogart that burger, man

A Wendy's employee who tucked a partially smoked blunt in a customer's cheeseburger has been fired and charged with marijuana possession.

Police in the city of Lovejoy, Ga., about 40 kilometres south of downtown Atlanta, say a customer drove home with her food Nov. 1, took a bite out of the burger and noticed a strange smell wafting from it. Police say the woman pulled the bun off and saw a partially smoked blunt inside.

A blunt is marijuana rolled into a hollowed-out cigar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman live-tweets about husband's deadly crash

Crews respond to an accident in Vancouver, Wash. on Wednesday. Caran Johnson, who regularly monitors police-scanner traffic, unknowingly live-tweeted about her husband's death in the crash. ZACHARY KAUFMAN/THE COLUMBIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tragic coincidence. While monitoring police scanners, woman grew frantic when couldn't reach husband

A Washington state woman who regularly monitors police-scanner traffic unknowingly live-tweeted about her husband's death in a freeway crash.

In a series of gut-wrenching tweets on Wednesday that grew more frantic, the Vancouver, Wash., mother first tweeted how horrible it was when she learned someone had died on Interstate 205 near the Oregon border.

Caran Johnson, who uses the handle @ScanCouver, then told her Twitter followers that she was trying not to panic because her husband, who drives the freeway, wasn't picking up his phone and was late getting home.

"i'm a basketcase," she tweeted.

As the events unfolded, she messaged Washington State Patrol spokesman Will Finn directly, asking whether he had descriptions of the vehicles involved in the collision. Finn said he didn't, but it struck him as odd so he began looking into the crash.

"I contacted the investigator and we put two and two together. I realized I had a situation on my hands," Finn said Thursday.

Troopers later went to Johnson's home to tell her that her husband, 47-year-old Craig Johnson, had died in the collision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heart-rending tweet

"it's him. he died."

Caran Johnson, tweeting about her husband's car crash, after troopers arrived at her house to tell her he had died

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Ottawa nurse Janique Gagnon helps vaccinate a child in the Central African Republic. CONTRIBUTED

Great suffering, enormous need

Médecins Sans Frontières. Conflict in the Central African Republic as awful as high-profile crises, says Canadian nurse

Janique Gagnon, centre, with a group of women in the Central African Republic, at an outreach vaccination day. CONTRIBUTED

DENIS ARMSTRONG
For Metro in Ottawa

Janique Gagnon returned from the Central African Republic on Oct. 8 "with a heavy heart."

The Ottawa children's hospital nurse had just spent the last six months on her first mission with Médecins Sans Frontières — Doctors Without Borders — in one of the most dangerous places on earth, and though she's glad to be home with her husband and two young sons, she wants to return to the war-torn nation as soon as possible.

"I knew there was a risk, so I made it a family decision," Gagnon says. "If my husband or boys don't want me to go, I won't. But they gave me their permission."

They gave their permission because, despite the obvious risks, Gagnon's family understood that front-line emergency work was in her blood.

Before nursing, Gagnon spent 10 years in the Canadian military, deployed in Italy as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she treated casualties from Sarajevo while under fire. Gagnon retired from the military in 2001.

By then, she was looking for an opportunity to volunteer with MSF. The organization offered her the opportunity to run a 95-bed hospital in Boguila, Central African Republic — a jungle village 400 kilometres from the capital, Bangui. This was in April, only two weeks after a coup d'etat reduced the tribal country to civil war.

Without blinking an eye, Gagnon accepted on the spot — nevermind that Seleka rebels and government forces fought viciously in the jungle near the hospital compound.

John Ging, the UN's director of humanitarian operations, has described the country as "a tinderbox that can ignite into something very, very big and very, very bad. Half the country's population of 4.6 million need humanitarian aid. The scale of suffering is among the worst in the world, and it's getting worse."

"I knew the conditions were bad, but that is why I wanted to be there, where the need is the greatest," said Gagnon. "Which is why I joined MSF, because they go to those places where people need medical care the most, and that's usually a dangerous place."

Gagnon had arrived at the beginning of the rainy season when malaria was rampant. She treated the diseased, the dismembered and the dying, witnessing more human degradation than any person should ever see.

Thanks in part to her front-line military experience, she pushed through and focused on the job. She recalls the day she stood up to a Seleka colonel, ordering him to remove his gun prior to entering the hospital.

She remembers the day she cried for the baby that died in her arms.

"Conditions were hard, but the people were so grateful we were there, they didn't want us to leave," she recalls. "I have a huge amount of respect for the people who live there. They have nothing. They can't even take care of themselves because there's nothing."

Gagnon says what they need most are schools. "Education leads to change. It's a long process, but it has to begin now."

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Brother of dead soldier speaks out

A matter of life and death. Help with post-traumatic stress desperately needed for those in the military, Kevin McNeil says

The younger brother of a soldier whose death has raised questions about the Canadian military's treatment of those with post-traumatic stress disorder says members of the military need to know help is available if they are suffering.

Speaking before Warrant Officer Michael McNeil's funeral Thursday, Kevin McNeil said PTSD is a problem that is not going to stop, but the risks can be minimized.

"The most we can do is maybe slow it down," McNeil said outside the armoury in Truro, N.S.

"As much money as government is going to pour into this, it's not going to stop. What we can do is make more people aware, talk to these soldiers, let them know their jobs aren't in jeopardy and we're here for them."

McNeil's death at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, northwest of Ottawa, is among four recent suicides in the military.

The Armed Forces acknowledges it will be dealing with an increased number of PTSD cases in the next decade as the stress of combat takes hold in those who have returned from the fighting in Afghanistan.

McNeil, 39, was a member 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

McNeil said he wants his brother remembered as a family man first and secondly as a hero to his country.

McNeil's coffin was carried into the armoury by an honour guard made up of McNeil's comrades in the Royal Canadian Regiment, assisted by his brother Kevin and cousin Tim McNeil.

Quoted

"He gave everything to his country. He was a strong man and will be missed forever."

Kevin McNeil, brother of Warrant Officer Michael McNeil

During the funeral service, Lt. Kendra Mellish, the widow of Warrant Officer Frank Mellish, a soldier killed in Afghanistan in September 2006, gave a reflection on her friend.

She said after her husband died, McNeil helped care for her children and would meet her when he came back from tours.

"Only seven short years ago, he was in this same position, paying homage to his friend (Frank)," she said.

She offered comfort to McNeil's two daughters, one son and one stepson.

"Be proud of the hero he was," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of The Royal Canadian Regiment carry the casket at the funeral for Warrant Office Michael McNeil at the Truro Armouries in Truro, N.S. on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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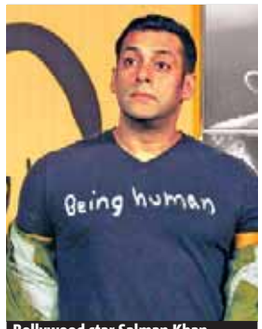
Top Bollywood actor faces new homicide charge

Salman Khan. Star was initially on trial for causing death by negligence 11 years ago

Indian movie star Salman Khan will face a fresh trial on a homicide charge for a fatal road accident of more than 11 years ago.

Police said that Khan drove his car into a group of people sleeping on a Mumbai sidewalk in September 2002, killing one and injuring four.

The actor was on trial for a lesser offence of causing death by negligence, which carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. However, after a magistrate in Mumbai heard the evidence, he invoked the more serious charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against the actor in February.



Bollywood star Salman Khan
RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Khan could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted of culpable homicide. He also faces charges of negligent driving and causing grievous hurt to the victims.

Khan has pleaded not guilty to the charges and sought a fresh trial, which Judge D. W. Deshpande granted Thursday. The judge said that all the witnesses would be re-examined.

The pretrial is set for Dec. 23.

"These are far more serious charges, so there should be a fair opportunity (for Khan) to defend himself," his lawyer, Shrikant Shivade, said.

Khan, one of Bollywood's most popular stars, has acted in about 90 Hindi-language films in his 25-year career.

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London soldier death

'As if Allah had chosen him,' attacker says

A man accused of murdering a British soldier on a London street says he attacked the first serviceman he spotted, saying "it was almost as if Allah had chosen him."

Michael Adebolajo told police in an interview played Thursday at his trial that he and his co-accused decided a soldier was "the most fair target because he joins the army with kind of an understanding that your life is at risk ... We sat in wait and it just so happened that he was the soldier that was spotted first," Adebolajo said in the police interview. Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale are accused of running Fusilier Lee Rigby down with a car before hacking him to death near Woolwich Barracks on May 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libya

American killed while jogging

An American teacher was shot to death as he was jogging in Benghazi on Thursday, highlighting persistently tenuous security in the eastern Libyan city where the U.S. ambassador was killed last year.

There were no credible claims of responsibility, but suspicion is likely to fall on Islamic militants active in Benghazi. It came five days after al-Qaida's American spokesman called upon Libyans to attack U.S. interests everywhere as revenge for U.S. special forces snatching an al-Qaida suspect off the streets of Tripoli in October and whisking him out of the country. The victim taught chemistry at Benghazi's International School, which follows a British curriculum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paramedics load a victim into an ambulance after an attack in Sanaa, Yemen on Thursday. YEMEN DEFENSE MINISTRY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazen attack on Yemen's ministry of defence

Sanaa. Terrorist attack hits U.S. ally, which has a shoreline close to vital shipping lines carrying oil

Alerted

The Yemen Defence Ministry was tipped off last week that a major attack in the capital was imminent, prompting authorities to reinforce security.

- Yemen is located at the southwest corner of the Arabian Peninsula, a strategically important location.

The Yemen Defence Ministry came under attack Thursday from a suicide car bomber and heavily armed gunmen, killing 52 people and wounding 167, in a fierce battle in the heart of the capital, Sanaa.

Among the dead at the Defence Ministry complex, which also houses a military hospital, were soldiers and civilians, including seven foreigners — two Germans, two Vietnamese, two Filipinos and one Indian, according to the Supreme Security Commission.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the two-stage assault, but suicide bombings and complex attacks are the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

The morning attack, the deadliest in Sanaa since May 2012, underlined the ability of insurgents to strike at the government as they exploit the instability that has plagued the country — a U.S. ally — for more than two years.

The U.S. considers Yemen's al-Qaida branch to be the most active in the world.

The government said all the militants who stormed the complex Thursday were killed, but it did not say how many. State TV showed a dozen bodies, identifying them as the attackers. Military helicopters hovered over the site as soldiers and ambulances arrived and gunfire echoed in the streets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Use bitcoin at your own risk, warns China's central bank

Banned in banks.
Country's central bank says people can trade the cyber currency, but it has 'no legal status'

A customer pays for drinks at a pub using bitcoins in Sydney, Australia, using a QR code on a smartphone.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bitcoins suffered a new setback after China's central bank said Thursday its banks and payment systems are barred from handling the virtual currency.

The central bank said bitcoins did not qualify as a currency but private individuals still are allowed to trade them at their own risk.

Bitcoins are created, distributed, and authenticated independently of any bank or government. Their relative anonymity holds out the promise of being able to spend money across the Internet without scrutiny.

"Bitcoins are virtual goods that have no legal status or monetary equivalent and should not be used as currency," said a Chinese central bank statement.

It said financial institutions and payment systems were not allowed to use bitcoin prices for products and could not sell, trade or store bitcoins.

"Ordinary people are free to participate in transactions at their own risk," the central bank said.

Despite wild swings in value, the virtual currency has been moving toward broader acceptance. A growing number of companies accept bitcoins, which can be converted into cash.

Other governments are wary of the cyber currency. In July, Thailand's central bank banned trading and use of bitcoins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fast-food workers not lovin' their McSalaries

Fast-food workers rally for better wages outside a McDonald's restaurant in Chicago, Thursday. Demonstrations planned in 100 U.S. cities are part of a push by labour unions, worker advocacy groups and Democrats to raise the federal minimum wage of $7.25 US. Protesters are calling for pay of $15 US an hour, but the figure is seen more as a rallying point. The push for higher pay faces an uphill battle. The industry competes aggressively on value offerings and companies have warned they would need to raise prices if wages were hiked. Most fast-food locations are owned and operated by franchisees, which lets companies such as McDonald's Corp. and Burger King Worldwide Inc. say they don't control worker pay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's busiest airport

CIBC opening branch inside Pearson airport

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is opening a branch inside Toronto's Pearson airport in a bid to draw in travellers and newcomers. CIBC said Thursday its clients and other travellers will now be able to access ABMs, as well as mobile and online banking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX
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OIL
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GOLD
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Natural gas: $4.14 US (+18¢)
Dow Jones: 15,821.51 (-68.26)

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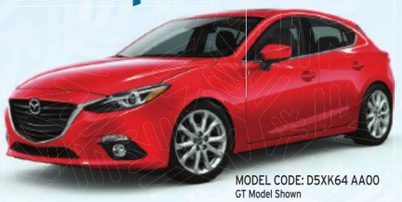

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MODEL CODE: NVXK64 BA00
GT Model Shown

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Freedom fighter, world icon

Analysis. Why Nelson Mandela was important to South Africa and the world

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Nelson Mandela's cell of five square metres in Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, is now a virtual shrine for tourists and political figures alike. But Mandela was much more than a long-suffering prisoner. He was a world leader and a 20th century icon.

"His building a future for South Africa was a huge achievement," says Stephen Chan, professor of international relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and author of numerous books on southern Africa.

"He helped draft what may be the world's best constitution. He was instrumental in establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was crucial in helping the country deal with its apartheid past. He was also a highly moral politician, setting the tone for the whole continent by stepping down after one term."

Lilias van Wyk, a white South African who lived through apartheid, is full of admiration for Mandela.

"There's nobody like him here in South Africa. (Our former president and Mandela's deputy president Thabo Mbeki) was a gentleman, but our current president is more interested in ladies than anything else," she tells Metro.

Indeed, Mandela succeeded where so many other freedom-fighters-turned-leaders have failed: as a democratic politician and later president, the former communist united his country.

Despite the black majority's pent-up anger over decades of discrimination, no civil war erupted. The transition to democracy under Mandela's leadership proceeded in a remarkably peaceful and orderly fashion. In his presidential inauguration speech, Mandela urged South Africans to practise forgiveness, saying in Afrikaans, "Wat is verby verby," which translates to "What is past is past." And, through the power of his moral leadership, Mandela brought South Africa back into the international fold.

Quote

"We all think he was a fantastic man. It's amazing what he accomplished without any violence or shooting. And his dignity! I say, 'Thank you, Lord, that we've had him.'"

Lilias van Wyk, a white South African who lived through apartheid

But, Africa watchers note, Mandela was no angel, inherently speaking.

"He became a saint because we made him one," says Chan. "We made him one to justify not putting enough pressure on the apartheid government to release him."

And though South African lore sees him as an old man who magically emerged from decades in prison to govern his country with great success, the reality is a bit more nuanced. Explains Chan: "The four years between his release and his election as president in 1994 were turbulent. He had to go on a steep learning curve."

And, while Mandela was in charge as president, he mainly provided the strategic direction and left the nitty-gritty of governing to his deputy, Thabo Mbeki. That's in no way negative, but the frail 76-year-old didn't single-handedly perform the arduous task of running the country.

Even after stepping down, Mandela remained an icon at home and around the world: almost uniquely among dissidents elected to political power, he left with his integrity and popularity intact. For South Africa, the African continent, even the world he was a desperately needed icon of democratic success.

"We're all praying for a peaceful transition now," says van Wyk. "We're on our knees 24-7."

But the adoration of Mandela will no doubt continue.

South Africa's first black president, Nelson Mandela, revisits his prison cell on Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, in 1994.
GETTY IMAGES

SOURCES: BBC, NOBELPRIZE.ORG, PBS, SABC
GRAPHIC: MIA KORAB; TEXT: ANTHONY JOHNSTON

5 THINGS WE'LL REMEMBER ABOUT MANDELA

1918-2013

1 FROM ROYALTY, LEGAL ACTIVISM TO "TERRORISM"

Nelson Mandela, raised by an African royal family in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, studied law at university and opened the country's first black law firm at the age of 34. His zeal to fight apartheid led him to co-found an armed wing of the African National Congress, classified as a terrorist group at the time.

2 ROBBED OF LIBERTY, ON ROBBEN ISLAND

In 1964, Mandela was jailed for life for plotting to overthrow the government by sabotage. For 18 years of his sentence, he was interned at the infamous Robben Island prison in a tiny cell barely a few square metres in size. He was locked away, but not forgotten, as his power of resistance against apartheid spread from behind the bars to across the world.

3 MANDELA'S FREE AFTER MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

On February 11, 1990, clutching his wife Winnie's hand and dressed in a dignified brown suit, Mandela punches the air in a victory salute as he walks away from the gates of Victor Verster Prison. Mandela's freedom after 27 years in jail was one of the most iconic memories of the 20th century. Mandela was released following a relaxation of apartheid laws.

4 SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT ... AND OLDEST

In 1994, after more than 300 years of white rule, South Africa has its first black president after the country's first fully democratic election. At age 75, he became South Africa's oldest ever elected head of state.

5 BLACK AND WHITE UNITED, THROUGH SPORT

The following year, in another epic historic — and sporting — moment of the 20th century, Mandela presents the Rugby World Cup trophy to captain Francois Pienaar, an Afrikaner. Wearing a shirt of the South African rugby team (once reviled by the black population), Mandela's gesture was seen as a huge step of unity between blacks and whites.

1 visitor a year for 30 minutes was all Mandela was allowed to receive as a prisoner on Robben Island. He could write and receive one letter every half a year while interned there.

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

Mandela on dealing with his opponents. He was lauded worldwide for working with those authorities that once persecuted him, rather than remaining embittered.

DID YOU KNOW?

MADIBA: Throughout his life, Mandela was affectionately and respectfully called Madiba, the name of the Xhosa-speaking Thembu tribal clan to which he belonged.

MASTER OF DISGUISE: Nicknamed "The Black Pimpernel" during his clashes with South African authorities because of his knack for avoiding the police using disguises — his favourite one was a chauffeur.

KEEN CLASSICAL MUSIC FAN: Handel and Tchaikovsky were ranked among his favourite musicians.

A TASTE FOR THE SIMPLE: Mandela's favourite dishes included crumbled maize meal with sour milk, oxtail stew with vegetables and tripe — that's the stomach lining of animals.

MANDELA THE "TERRORIST": For years, Mandela was flagged on the United States' terror watch list due to his leadership in "terrorist" organization African National Congress against the old apartheid regime, and needed a waiver from the Secretary of State to travel to the US. In 2008, he was removed from the terror list.

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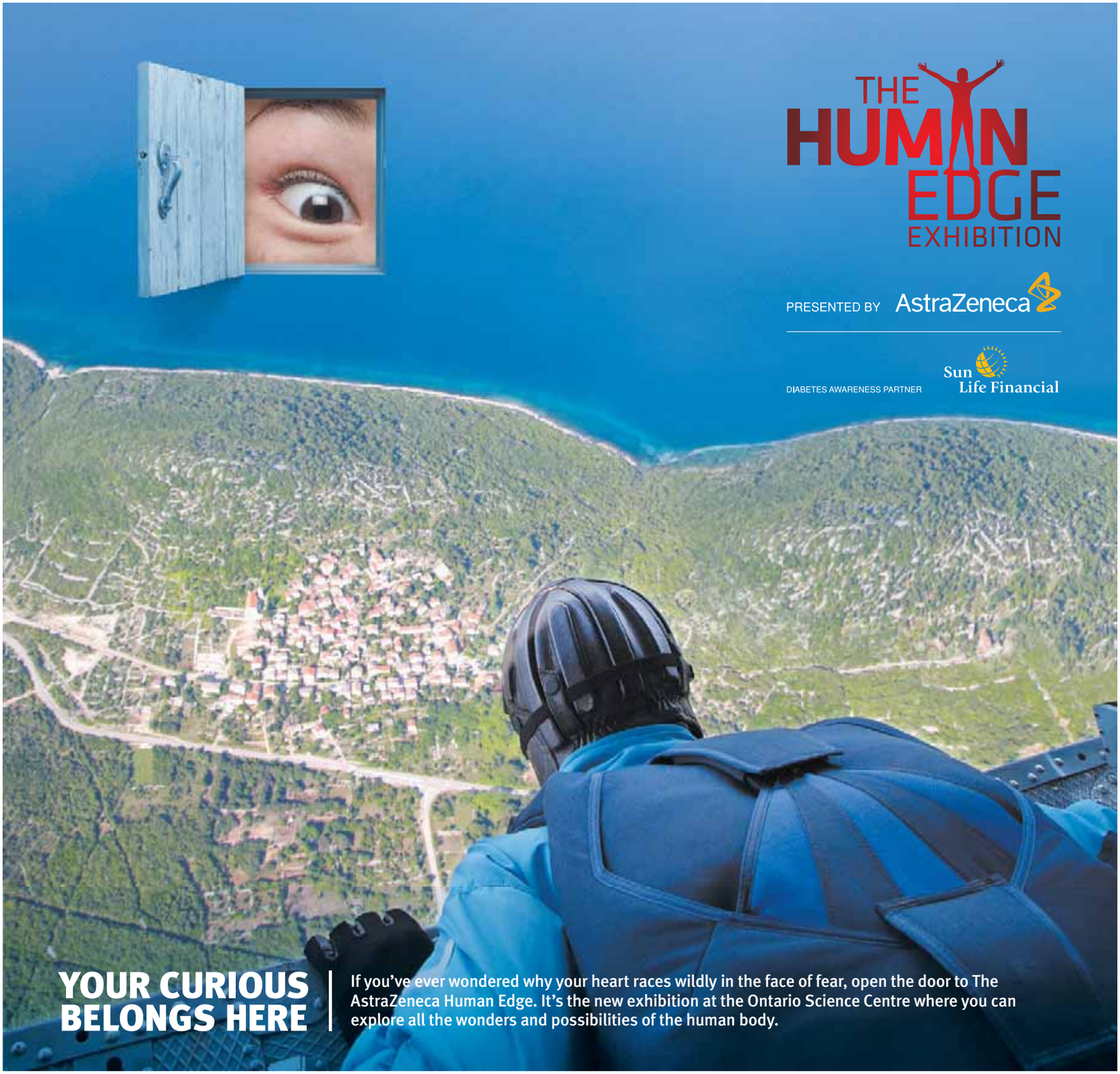

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Synopsis

"Well, it's Christmas time, pretty baby" ... and the Reel Guys are watching films... With our apologies to Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who wrote those lyrics to Elvis Presley's Santa Claus is Back in Town — that song pretty much sums up what the holiday season means for us. Next week we'll be back to reviewing the big releases of the year, but before we get to that we thought we'd have a look at movies to get us in the Christmas spirit. They may not all be on Santa's nice list.

Billy Bob Thornton's Bad Santa is an antidote to all that icky holiday cheer. CONTRIBUTED

SCENE

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Santa's back in town

Festive features. The Reel Guys share their favourite holiday films, but not all of them bring comfort and joy

Richard: James Stewart stars in one of the movies that always puts me in the mood for Christmas, but its not the one you think. Sure, It's A Wonderful Life is a classic and yuletastic, but I also enjoy The Shop Around The Corner. It's a Christmassy romance that sees shop co-workers Stewart and Margaret Sullivan at one another's throats at work, unaware that they are also anonymously courting one another as pen pals. All becomes clear on Christmas Eve and they unwrap a big ol' gift basket of love. It's almost as heartwarming as a giant mug of hot chocolate.

Mark: Richard, as I'm Jewish, the Christmas holiday doesn't have quite the emotional pull on me that it might have on you. So, come Christmas Eve our family gathers around the TV, where we watch Bad Santa until we fall asleep from convulsive laughter. The story of an alcoholic, womanizing, foulmouthed Santa is a delightful antidote to all that icky cheer I'm supposed to feel. Then, when the novelty dies down, I get with the program and watch Elf. But I wear my Grinch mask just in case a tear is shed.

RC: That green synthetic fur is great for soaking up tears! But an antidote to the icky cheer you describe are two films set during the holidays without an ounce of tinsel treacle between them. In The Long Kiss Goodnight an amnesiac played by Geena Davis is outed as a former hired killer when she is recognized playing Mrs. Claus in a Christmas parade. The title A Christmas Tale sounds traditional enough, but the story focuses on the bitter rather than the sweet. The English title of this Catherine Deneuve dramedy could easily have been Cancer for Christmas, but despite the downer topic it's complex, funny and touching.

MB: I've never seen A Christmas Tale, Richard, thanks for the tip. But if it's holiday downers we're looking for, consider Black Christmas, a 1974 slasher flick starring Olivia Hussey. I guess you could double-bill this one with the 2006 remake, but that might be, ahem, overkill.

RC: Many years ago, on the first Christmas the PMC — my Preferred Movie Companion — and I spent together, I screened Black Christmas for her, which almost stopped the relationship before it had a chance to really get going. I love the slaying slasher story. Her, not so much. I quickly rebounded with National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, which made the yuletide bright once again. Thanks, Chevy Chase, for saving Christmas and my relationship!

MB: Well, for a Jewish guy like me, I'll just have to be content with Adam Sandler's Hanukkah animation classic, Eight Crazy Nights, and a glass of Manischewitz!

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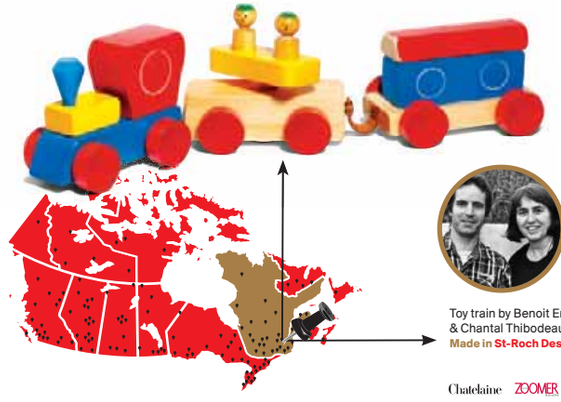

Toy train by Benoit Emond & Chantal Thibodeau
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Superhero

Gal Gadot to play Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman is finally coming to the big screen. Israel-born actress Gal Gadot has been cast as Wonder Woman in Warner Bros.' superhero team-up film with Batman and Superman, the studio announced Wednesday. Already starring in the currently untitled film are Ben Affleck as Batman and Henry Cavill as Superman. Created in the 1940s and outfitted in patriotic colours, Wonder Woman was most famously played by Lynda Carter in the 1970s Wonder Woman television series. A sequel to Man of Steel, the Batman-Superman film is set to begin production early next year, and to be released in July 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thriller

The Last Days on Mars

Director. Ruairi Robinson

Stars. Liev Schreiber, Romola Garai

The Last Days on Mars is a well-acted but ultimately familiar sci-fi thriller in which a contingent of cosmonauts uncover a virus that transforms them one-by-one into zombies. Irish director Ruairi Robinson shows promise but the drama has little to add to a played-out premise.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

Jingle Bell Rocks

Director. Mitchell Kezin

Stars. Mitchell Kezin, John Waters

Jingle Bell Rocks is a quirky little documentary that explores filmmaker Mitchell Kezin's life-long search to unearth the most eclectic holiday music ever recorded. The intimate movie follows Kezin as he rummages record shops and interviews pop culture icons like filmmaker John Waters. Kezin's quest does carry a surprising emotional depth at its heart.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

Let the Fire Burn

Director. Jason Osder

Stars. Michael Moses Ward, Louise James

Framed around an exhaustive public hearing investigating the tragedy, Let the Fire Burn is an intriguing inquiry into a little-known 1985 incident between Philadelphia police and a radical group that ended with 11 dead and an entire housing block up in flames. There may not be much hope to be gleaned from Jason Osder's directorial debut but the filmmaker assembles his study solely from a wide array of archival footage which lends the film objectivity and a stirring pertinence.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

Spinning Plates

Director. Joseph Levy

There isn't anything particularly groundbreaking or even noteworthy about Spinning Plates but, like its subjects, it's hard not to be charmed by this simple, straightforward documentary focused on three diverse restaurants. Filmmaker Joseph Levy effectively blends the history and challenges (including cancer battles, fire and foreclosure) into each restaurateur's tale and captures some savory cinematography that's sure to please even if the film focuses is more on family than the food they respectively serve.

STEVE GOW

Crime/Drama

Out of the Furnace

Director. Scott Cooper

Stars. Christian Bale, Casey Affleck

This movie is bleaker than the most mournful George Jones song. When steel mill worker Russell Baze (Christian Bale) emerges from jail, he finds his live-in girlfriend (Zoe Saldana) no longer lives in and his Iraq War vet brother Rodney (Casey Affleck) is having trouble with civilian life. When Rodney disappears after a bare-knuckle fight run by Harlan DeGroat (Woody Harrelson) Russell attempts vigilante justice. Bale and Affleck hand in intense performances but Harrelson shines as a scuzzball.

RICHARD CROUSE

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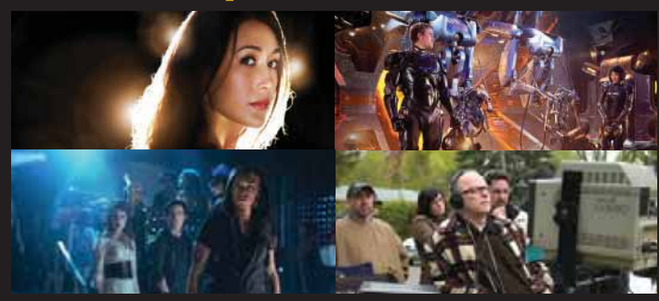

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Women rule at Sundance 2014

Lineup look-ahead.
Comedy giants try their hand at more serious roles

Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig take a turn for the serious at Sundance in The Skeleton Twins. CONTRIBUTED

Ladies will continue to drive the feature lineup at the Sundance Film Festival as Robert Redford's independent-cinema fair celebrates its 30th anniversary next month in Park City, Utah.

At the top of the list released Wednesday, female directors dominate the competition, with eight out of the 16 films helmed by women. And in front of the camera, women reign supreme — only this time, comedians eclipse the layout.

Actresses like Amy Poehler, Kristen Wiig, Molly Shannon, Aubrey Plaza, Amy Sedaris and Jenny Slate all appear in features playing at the upcoming fest. And in the case of Wiig, Shannon and Plaza, we have funny gals turning serious.

Following her dramatic turn in the upcoming The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, Wiig will play the twin sister of fellow SNL alum Bill Hader in The Skeleton Twins. In the film, which also stars Luke Wilson and Ty Burrell, the siblings coincidentally cheat death on the same day.

Shannon and Plaza will star in Life After Beth, which focuses on a mysterious second chance at love after death.

"Comedians are big this year, especially with what we are calling 'funny ladies,'" said Sundance director John Cooper.

"A lot of these roles are setting up typical comedic actresses in roles that are a little deeper.

In general, a lot of actors are being drawn to independent film because of the quality of interesting roles that they can play."

Sundance films typically offer the ideal fabric and draw for performers who are departing from their usual Hollywood formulas.

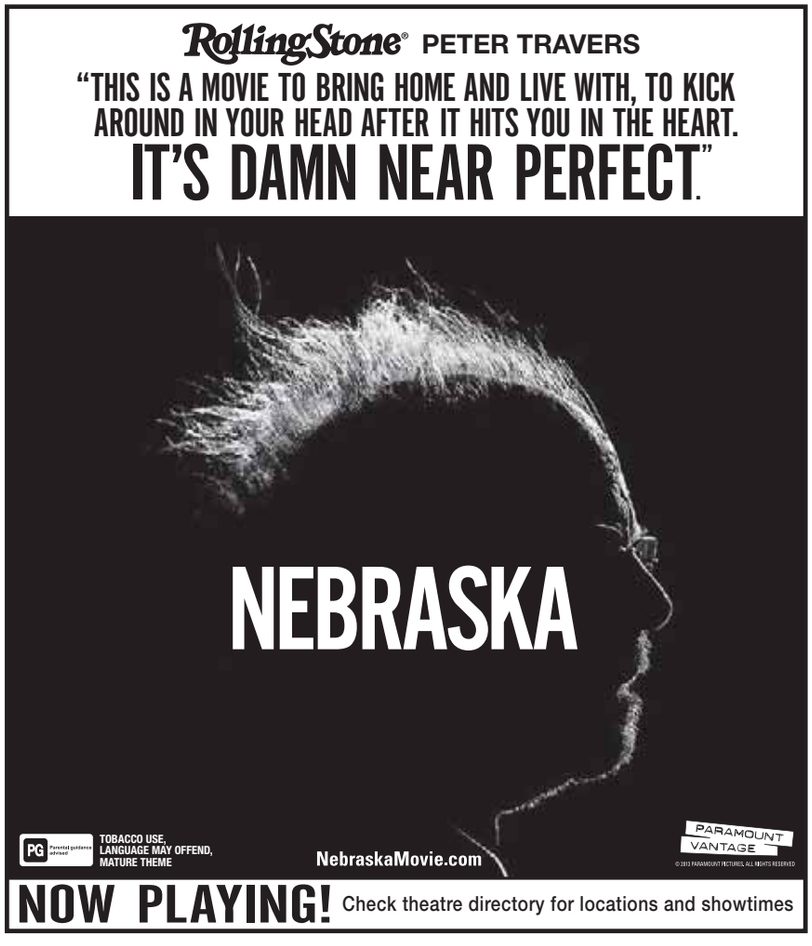
Girls sitcom creator Lena Dunham, whose debut movie, Tiny Furniture, won best narrative feature when it premiered at the South by Southwest film festival in 2010, will appear in writer/director Joe Swanberg's Happy Christmas, also starring Anna Kendrick.

In her first feature since The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2, Kristen Stewart plays a guard stationed at Guantanamo Bay in budding writer/director Peter Sattler's Camp X-Ray.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

Altogether, 117 feature-length films, selected out of 12,218 titles submitted (72 more than for 2013), are scheduled for Sundance 2014. Some 37 countries and 54 first-time filmmakers will be represented.



Promoting Polley: Doc hits award circuit

Stories We Tell.
Sarah Polley's true tale of her family secret has become a serious Oscar contender

Sarah Polley's intimate family tale Stories We Tell was supposed to be the little-seen documentary the actress-turned-director made between larger dramatic features.

Instead, it's become a serious Oscar contender and widely acclaimed documentary debut, garnering plenty of attention south of the border, including awards from the New York Film Critics Circle for best non-fiction film and the National Board of Review for best documentary.

Now, she and producer Anita Lee are gearing up for an awards circuit they hope will culminate with a golden statue at the Academy Awards.

"It's really, really exciting," Lee says of recently making the short list for a best documentary Oscar nomination, alongside 14 other films.

"It's so incredibly awesome."

Lee says Polley "is absolutely thrilled" with the surprise acclaim for her intensely personal film, which explores a long-held family secret about her true parentage.

They learned of making the Oscar short list Tuesday, the same day they were handed the best non-fiction prize by the New York Film Critics Circle. The National Board of Review announced it picked Polley's film as best doc on Wednesday.

Documentary branch members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will now choose five nominees from a pool of 15.

Lee says it's an honour just to make the short list, but she admits that she and Polley are ready to promote Stories We Tell to academy voters to boost their chances of snagging a nomination.

That means hosting key screenings in Los Angeles and New York, and making sure they attend events like the International Documentary Association's IDA Awards on Friday. Lee says she's heading to L.A. on Thursday for the bash, where Stories We Tell will compete for the best feature award against The Act of Killing, Blackfish, Let the Fire Burn and The Square.

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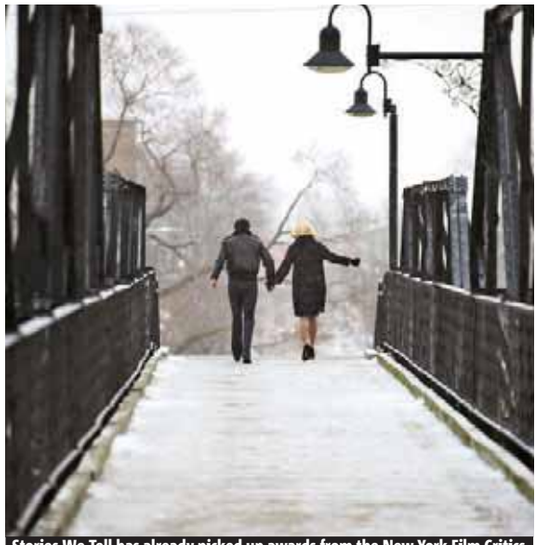

Stories We Tell has already picked up awards from the New York Film Critics Circle and the National Board of Review. CONTRIBUTED

On promoting the film

"I really am learning that it's not just about the merit of the film, it is very strategic and political and it involves marketing and a very big Oscar machinery that exists in the U.S. industry," says Lee, a producer for the National Film Board based in Toronto. "And so I feel like it's a lottery but the odds are not bad so we're hopeful."

Her named best film by National Board of Review

Spike Jonze's futuristic romance Her has been named best film by the National Board of Review. The board also named Jonze best director, giving Her an early awards season boost. The Warner Bros. film starring Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson is to be released December 18. Alexander Payne's father-son road trip Nebraska took two acting awards. Bruce Dern won for best actor, and his co-star Will Forte won for best supporting actor. Emma Thompson was awarded best actress for the Mary Poppins story Saving Mr. Banks. Best supporting actress went to Octavia Spencer for Fruitvale Station.
The National Board of Review is a group of film academics, students and professionals founded in 1909. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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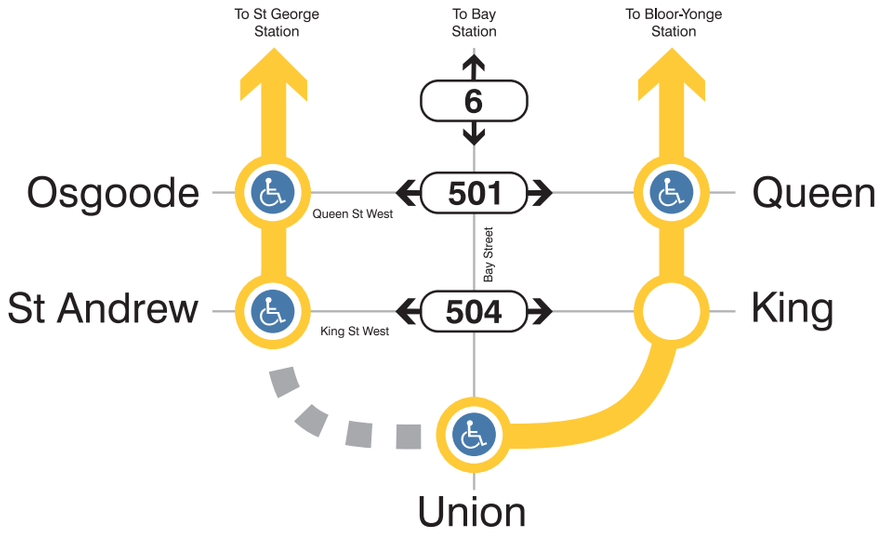

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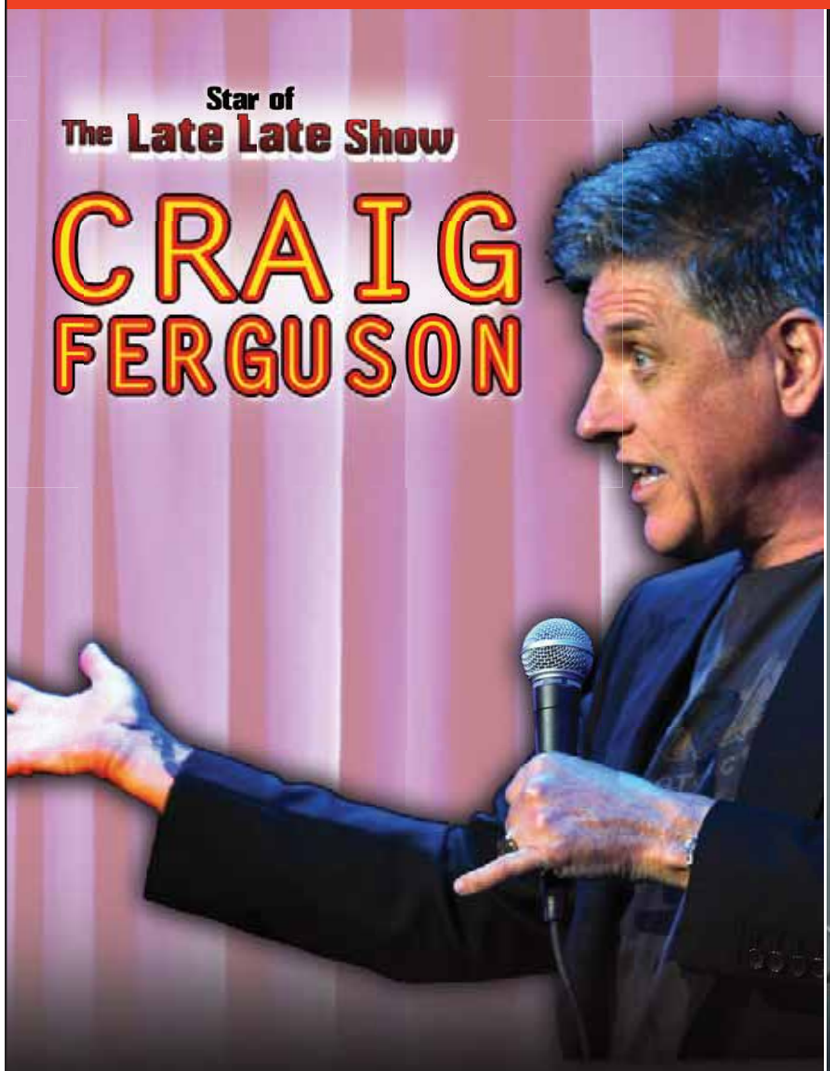

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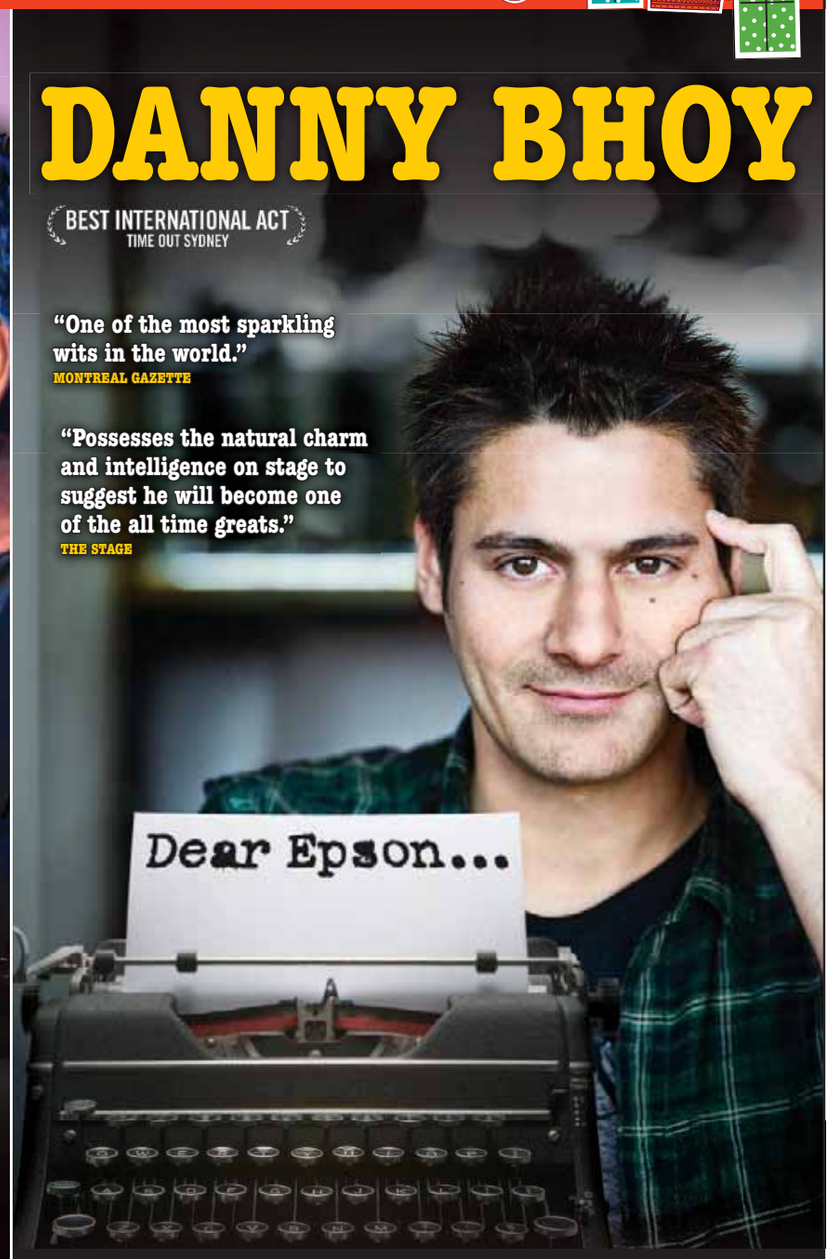

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Day Job Doc: A Story of Chasing Dreams (STC) Thu 7
Humber: The Doc Experience (STC) Wed 6
InRealLife (14A) Fri 3:45
Insurgence (STC) Tue 6:15
The Italian Character (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 1-6 Sun 1 Mon 9:30 Wed 3
Jingle Bell Rocks (STC) Fri 8:45 Sat 8:30 Sun 8:45 Tue 9:30
Syria Docs (STC) Sun 3:30

Carlton, 20 Carlton St.

All Is Lost (PG) Fri 4:15-9:25 Sun 4:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:15-9:25
Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:50-8:25
Cabaret (STC) Sat 2-7
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:35-9:20
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7-9:35
Enough Said (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-7:10 Sun 7:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-7:10
Hello, Dolly! (STC) Sun 2-7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:15-6:50-9:10
Kill Your Darlings (14A) Fri-Sat 4:05-9:30 Sun 9:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-9:30
The Last Days on Mars (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4-7:05-9:20
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 1:40 Mon-Thu 1:40-6:55
Let the Fire Burn (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-7-9:15
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (18A) Sat 4:15-9:15
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:25
Toronto Film Society (STC) Sun 2
Waiting for Summer (STC) Fri 7

Scotiabank Theatre 259 Richmond St.

Don Jon (18A) Fri-Sat 1:50-4-6:25-8:45-11 Sun 1:50-4-6:25-8:35-10:45 Mon 1:50-4-10:45 Tue 1:50-4-6:25-8:35-10:45 Wed 1:50-4-6:20-8:35-10:45 Thu 1:50-4-6:25-8:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:30 No Passes Thu 11
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri 2:30-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sat 12-2:30-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sun 1:10-3:40-7:40-10:20 Mon 12:45-3:35-6:20-9:30 Tue 1:10-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:40-7:40-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 1:40-2:20-3-5:05-5:45-6:15-8:25-9:10-9:40 Sat 2:20-3-5:05-5:45-6:15-8:25-9:10-9:40 Sun 1:40-2:20-3-5:05-5:45-6:15-8:20-9-9:30 Mon 1:40-2:20-3-5:05-5:45-8:20-9-10:15 Tue 1:40-2:20-3-5-5:40-6:10-8:20-9-9:35 Wed 1:40-2:20-3-5:05-5:45-8:20-9 Thu 12:45-1:40-2:20-4:10-5:05-6:15-7:30-8:30-9:40-10:10-11 Fri-Sat 12:55-4:10-7:35-10:50 Sun 12:55-4:10-7:30-10:45 Mon 12:55-4:10-7:25-10:40 Tue 12:55-4:10-7:20-10:45 Wed 12:55-4:10-7:30-10:45 Thu 12:25-3:40-7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:40-7-10:10 Sun 12:25-3:40-7-10:05 Mon 12:25-3:40-6:50-10 Tue 12:25-3:40-6:50-10:05 Wed 12:25-3:40-6:50-10 Thu 3:10-6:30
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:10-10 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon 1:15-4:20-7:10-9:50 Tue 1:20-4:20-7-9:30 Wed 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:45 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 12
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:30-6:40-9:30 Sun 12:45-3:30-6:35-9:20 Mon 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:20 Tue 12:45-3:30-6:35-9:20 Wed 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:20
Oldboy (18A) Fri 2:40-5:25-8:10-11 Sat 12:10-2:45-5:30-8:10-11 Sun-Wed 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:55-10:30 Thu 12:20-2:50-5:20-8:10-10:50
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sat 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:50-7:45-9:50-10:40 Sun 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:35 Mon 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:25 Tue 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:40-7:40-9:45-10:35 Wed 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:40-7:50-9:30-10:35 Thu 1-2-3:50-4:50-6:45-7:50-9:30-10:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:20-6:05-9:20 Sun-Thu 12:35-3:20-6:05-9:10
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:20 Sun-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:10 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10-10 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:15

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:20-6:30-9:25 Thu 3:20-6:30-9:25
The Croods (G) Sun 11
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 1-3:25-6:55-9:20 Sat 1-3:25-6:55-9:20-11:40 Sun-Mon 3:25-9:20 Tue 1-3:25-6:55-9:20-11:40 Wed 3:25-9:20 Thu 1-3:25-6:55-9:20 Sun-Mon 1-6:55 Wed 1-6:55
Frozen (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:05-7:10-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri 12:45-3:15-7-9:15 Sat 12:45-3:15-7-9:15-11:25 Sun-Mon 12:45-3:15-7-9:15 Tue 12:45-3:15-7-9:15-11:25 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:15-7-9:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:35 Sat 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:35-11:15 Sun-Mon 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:35 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:35-11:15 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:35
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:30 Sat 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:30-11:35 Sun-Mon 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:30 Tue 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:30-11:35 Wed 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:30 Thu 12:55-3:40-6:45

Revue Cinema 400 Roncesvalles Ave.

All Is Lost (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 4-7 Mon 9:45 Wed-Thu 7
Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Sun 9:15 Mon 6:30 Tue 9:30 Wed-Thu 9:15
Ender's Game (PG) Sat-Sun 1:30
Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Tue 6:45

The Royal 608 College St.

Don Jon (18A) Tue-Thu 9:15
Night Train to Lisbon (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Short Term 12 (14A) Fri-Mon 9:15
Trailer Wars (STC) Fri 11:30

Varsity 55 Bloor St. W.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:20 Mon-Tue 1-4:05-7:10-10:10 Wed 1-4:05-10:10 Thu 1-4:05-7:10-10:10
A.K.A. Doc Pomus (STC) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:25-7-9:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon 9:50 Tue-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50 Thu 12:45-3:45-9:50
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:55 Fri 12:35-3:35-6:15-9 Sat 12:35-3:35 Sun 12:35-3:35-6:15-9 Mon-Tue 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:15 Wed 6:35-9:15 Thu 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:35-5-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:40-6:55-9:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-10:15 Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:15-4-6:40-9:25
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7-10:05
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 2-4:25-7:05-9:45 Fri-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:25-9

Canada Square 2200 Yonge St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 3:50-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7
About Time (14A) Fri-Sun 4:15-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:15-7
All Is Lost (PG) Fri 3:45-6:10-8:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-6:10-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:30
The Armstrong Lie (14A) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50
Enough Said (PG) Fri 4:20-6:30-8:50 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:20-6:30-8:50 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:40
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 2
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-4:40-7:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:10
Homefront (14A) Fri 4-6:20-8:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4-6:20-8:40 Mon-Thu 4-6:20
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 4:30-6:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15

Mt. Pleasant Theatre 675 Mt.Pleasant Rd.

Blue Jasmine (14A) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun 7 Tue 7
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri-Sat 6:45 Sun 4:10 Wed-Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon

Regent Theatre 551 Mt.Pleasant Rd.

Muscle Shoals (PG) Fri 9:05 Sat 7 Mon 7 Thu 7
Night Train to Lisbon (14A) Fri 7 Sat 9:05 Sun 7 Wed 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue

Yonge-Eglinton Centre 2300 Yonge St.

The Book Thief (PG) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1-4-7-10 Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Tue 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri 3:05-6:30-9:40 Sat 3:10-6:30-9:40 Sun 3:05-6:30-9:40 Mon 3:20-10 Tue 3:05-6:30-9:40 Wed 3:20-10 Thu 3:20-6:25
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri 12:35 Sat 12:10 Sun 12:25 Mon 12:50 Tue 12:35 Wed 12:50 Thu 12:55
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 1:20-4:30-7:40-10:30 Sat 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:30-7:40-10:30 Mon 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:25 Tue 1:20-4:30-7:40-10:30 Wed 4:20-7:25-10:25 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 12:10-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Sat 7:10-9:55 Sun 2:55-5:35-8:05-10:40 Mon 1-3:35-6:35-9:10 Tue 12:10-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Wed 12:55-3:35-6:10 Thu 1-3:35-10:45
Frozen (G) Fri 12 Sat 12:40 Sun 12:05 Mon 1:20 Tue 12 Wed-Thu 1:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 2:40-5:20-8:10-10:45 Sat 3:30 Sun 2:45-5:30-8:10-10:45 Mon 4:10-6:50-9:35 Tue 2:40-5:20-8:10-10:45 Wed 4:10-6:50-9:35 Thu 4:10-6:55-9:35 Sat 4:40-7:40-10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:30 No Passes Thu 10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 4:10-7:15-10:30 Sat 12-3:20-6:40-10:10 Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon 2:30-6-9:20 Tue 12-3:20-6:40-10 Wed 2:30-6-9:20 Thu 3-6:15
Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Mon 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Tue 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 12
Philomena (PG) Fri 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:50-10:15 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Sun 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:50-10:15 Mon 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:15 Tue 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:50-10:15 Wed 4:40-7:45-10:15 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1 Sat 12:20 Sun 1 Mon 1:30 Tue 1 Wed 1:30 Thu 12:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat 3:40-6:50-9:45 Sun 3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon 4:30-7:35-10:30 Tue 3:50-6:50-9:50 Wed 4:30-7:35-10:30 Thu 3:55-7:05-10:10

Yonge & Dundas 24 10 Dundas St East

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:35-6:45-9:50
About Time (14A) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:10-3-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15
The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:25-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:55 Wed 1:30-4:15-7:05-10:25 Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:55
Black Nativity (G) Fri 2-5-7:45-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:55-6:45-9:25 Mon-Tue 7:45-10:05 Wed 9:35 Thu 7:45-10:05
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:40
Bullett Raja (PG) Fri 3-6:50-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:55-9:55 Mon-Tue 6:50-9:55 Wed 9:55 Thu 6:50-9:55
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri 3:15-6:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:55-3:15-6:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-10
Commitment (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:50
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:20
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 2:35-5:05-7:40-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:40-10:15
Die Hard (14A) Wed 6:30-9:30
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05
Frozen (G) Fri 3:20-5:55-8:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-5:55-8:30 Mon-Wed 3:20-5:55-8:30 Thu 5:55-8:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 2
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:30 Wed 1:45-4:20-6:55-10 Thu 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:30
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 2:35-4:55-7:15-10:10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45-6:45 Mon-Tue 4:15 Wed 4 Thu 2
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri 2:25-4:45-7:05-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:15 Mon-Tue 7:05-9:35 Wed 7:45-10:15 Thu 7:05-9:35
The King of Comedy (STC) Tue 7
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Fri 1:45-4:15-7-9:30 Sat 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:50 Sun 3:30-9:15 Mon 1:45 Tue 1:45-9:50 Wed 1:30 Thu 4:30
Philomena (PG) Fri 2-4:25-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:15 Mon-Wed 2-4:25-6:50-9:15 Thu 4:25-6:50-9:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 2
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Mon 7:30-10:15
R... Rajkumar (STC) Fri 3:10-6:35-9:45 Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:35-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:35-9:45
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Thu 7:30

TIFF Bell Lightbox 350 King St. West

Barton Fink (14A) Fri 8:45
Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Sat 12-3:30-7:05-9 Sun 12-3:30-7:05-9:25 Mon 7:05-9 Tue 12-3:30-7:05-9:25 Wed 12-3:30-7:05-9:35 Thu 12-3:30-7:05-9:25
Crash (14A) Sat 1
Crimes of the Future (PG) Thu 9:15
Hawking (PG) Fri-Sat 1-5 Sun 12:25-5 Mon 6 Tue 5 Wed 1-5 Thu 12:25-4:55
Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte (14A) Sun 4:30
Naked Lunch (R) Sun 7:30
Sisters (R) Sat 10
Spinning Plates (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-7:15-9:30 Mon 7:15-9:30 Tue-Thu 12:15-2:30-7:15-9:30
Three on a Match (PG) Fri 6:30
Watermark (G) Fri 12:20-2:35-4:45-6:45 Sat 12:20-2:35-4:45-6:45-9:05 Sun 12:20-2:35-4:45-7:10 Mon 6:05-9:05 Tue 1-2:35-4:45-7:05 Wed 12:20-2:35-4:45-6:45-9:05 Thu 1-2:35-4:45-6:55
What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (14A) Sat 4

Albion Cinemas 1530 Albion Rd.

Bullett Raja (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15-9:30
R... Rajkumar (STC) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri-Thu 6:15

Queensway
1025 The Queensway

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 12:40-3:50-7:05-10:20 Sat 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:20 Sun 12:20-3:35-6:50-10 Mon 6:50-10 Tue-Wed 12:20-3:35-6:50-10 Thu 12:20-3:25-9:40
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Sat 3:40-6:50-10 Sun-Wed 12:15-3:25-6:30-9:50 Thu 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:50
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:30-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:30-10:25 Sun-Wed 1:10-4:20-7:15-10:05 Thu 1-3:55-6:45
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:40 Sat 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:40 Sun-Wed 2:10-4:55-7:45-10:30 Thu 2:10-4:55-7:45-10:25
Die Hard (14A) Wed 9:30
Free Birds (G) Fri 12:10 Sat 12:50-3:25 Sun 12:05 Mon-Wed 12:35 Thu 12:25
Frozen (G) Fri 1:25-4:20-7 Sat 1:10-4:10-7 Sun 12-1-3:55-6:40 Mon-Tue 1-3:55-6:40 Wed 12:50-3:55-6:40 Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 2:10-4:55-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:10-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:30 Sun-Wed 2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Thu 2-4:45-7:20-10:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 12:20-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Sat 3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Sun-Wed 12:25-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 10:20-10:45
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sat 1:55-4:30-7:10-9:50 Sun 2:20-4:05-6:55-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:05-6:55-9:55 Wed 1:25-4:05-6:55-10:25 Thu 1:25-4:05-6:55-10:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 2:30-3:15-5:55-6:40-9:20-10:05 Sat 11:20-3:15-5:55-6:40-9:20-10:05 Sun 1:50-2:55-5:15-6:25-8:40-9:45 Mon-Wed 1:50-2:55-5:15-6:20-8:40-9:45 Thu 12:10-1:50-3:45-5:15-7:10-8:40-10:35 Fri 12:35-4-7:25-10:50 Sat 12:30-4-7:25-10:50 Sun-Wed 12:10-3:45-7:10-10:35 Thu 2:30-6:10
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sat 9:40 Sun-Wed 9:25 Thu 10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 12
Oldboy (18A) Fri 12:05-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:45 Sat 4:25-8:05-10:45 Sun 5-7:40-10:25 Mon 1:35-4:10-10:25 Tue 2:20-5-7:40-10:25 Wed 2:20-5-7:40 Thu 1:15-4-9:30
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 12:25-2:15-5:05-8-10:55 Sat 12:55-2:15-5:05-8-10:55 Sun-Tue 1:40-4:35-7:35-10:30 Wed 4:35-7:35-10:30 Thu 1:40-4:35-7:35-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Philomena (PG) Fri 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:55 Sat 1-1:50-4:40-7:15-9:55 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:15-7-9:35 Wed 4:15-7-9:35 Thu 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Mon 7:30
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45 Sun-Thu 1:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:35-7:35-10:35 Sun-Thu 4:25-7:20-10:10

Woodbine Centre
500 Rexdale Blvd.

The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Thu 6:35-9:20
Black Nativity (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-7:10-9:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:35 Wed 4:05-7:05-9:35 Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05 Wed 1
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7-9:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-6:55-9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:40-9:15

Kingsway Theatre
3030 Bloor St. West

Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri 12 Mon-Thu 12
Muscle Shoals (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-9:15
Rush (14A) Fri-Thu 4
Short Term 12 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10
Wadjda (PG) Fri-Thu 5:30
When Jews Were Funny (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:05

Humber Cinema
2:2442 Bloor St. West

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Wed 3:30-6:30-9:30 Thu 3:30-6:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:40 Sat-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:40 Wed 4:10-7:10-9:40 Thu 4:10-7:10 Mon 1
Frozen (G) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Tue 1:30-4-7-9:20 Wed-Thu 4-7-9:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (STC) Thu 10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:50 Sat-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:50

Beach Cinemas
1651 Queen St. E.

Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 8-10:30
Frozen (G) Fri 5:20 Sat-Sun 12-2:40-5:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 4-6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:45-5-7-8:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-1:45-3:45-5-7-8:15-10:15 Mon-Wed 7-8:15-10:15 Thu 6:50-8:15
Philomena (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 3:15-7:10-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10

Fox Theatre
2236 Queen St. E.

Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Tue 9:15 Wed 9:30 Thu 6:30
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Sun 1:30
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 7 Sat 9:30 Sun-Tue 7 Wed 1 Thu 7:45
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri 9:15 Sun-Mon 9:15
Movies and Makers (STC) Sat 10
Out With Dad Season 3 (STC) Wed 7
Rising From Ashes (STC) Sun 4

Yonge St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 4:15-7:10-10:05 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:10-10:05
A.K.A. Doc Pomus (STC) Fri 5:20-8-10:35 Sat-Sun 2:40-5:20-8-10:35 Mon 4:25-7:15-9:55 Tue-Thu 4-6:45-9:20
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:35-6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:45 Mon-Wed 3:35-6:40-9:45 Thu 3:35-6:45-9:45
Frozen (G) Fri 5:15 Sat-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 4:10
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:30-6:50-10:10 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:50-10:10 Mon-Wed 3:30-6:45-10:10 Thu 3-6:20-9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 4:10-7:30-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Mon-Wed 3:50-7-10:20 Thu 3:30-6:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 12
Oldboy (18A) Fri 4:50-7:35 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:35 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:35 Thu 4:50
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 4:20-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-10
Philomena (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:30
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 1:50 Mon-Wed 4:45 Thu 3:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:40-10:40 Sat-Sun 4:45-7:40-10:40 Mon-Wed 7:30-10:25

3401 Dufferin St.

The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Black Nativity (G) Fri 2-4:30-7-9:35 Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:35 Sun-Wed 2-4:30-7-9:35 Thu 2-4:30-7
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 1:40-4:25-7:05-10 Sat 11:05-1:40-4:25-7:05-10 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:05-10
Frozen (G) Fri 12:45-3:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30 Mon 12:20-3:10-6:15 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:15 No Passes Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:30-6:50-9:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:50-9:20-10:15 Mon 2:45-6:10-9-9:30 Tue 12:15-3:30-6:50-9:20-10:15 Wed 2:45-6:10-9-9:30 Thu 12:15-3:35-6:55-9-10:15 Fri-Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Tue 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Wed 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Thu 2:30-6:15
Oldboy (18A) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55 Sat 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55 Sun 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:25 Mon 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:05 Tue 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:05
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:50 Sat 11:10 Sun-Thu 1
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 4:45-7:40-10:35 Sat 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:35 Sun-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:50

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The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7-9:55 Mon 1-4-7-10 Tue 1-4-7-9:55 Wed 4-7-10 Thu 4-7-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 Sun 4:50-7:30-10:05 Mon 1:45-4:25-9:55 Tue 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 Wed 1:45-4:25-7:10-9:55 Thu 1:45-4:25-7:10
Frozen (G) Fri 12:45-3:45 Sat 11:20-12:45-3:45 Sun 12:45-3:45 Mon 2-5 Tue 12:45-3:45 Wed 5 Thu 2-5 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

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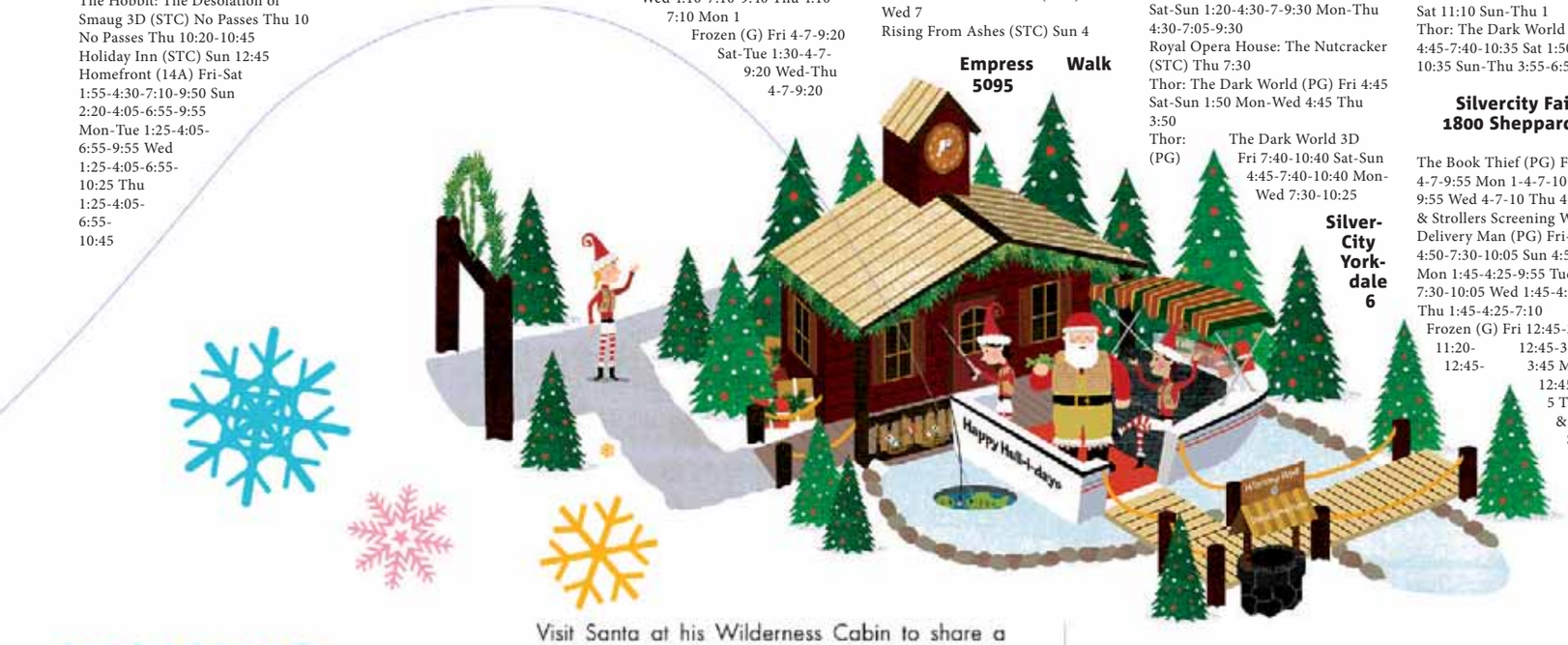

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Frozen 3D (G) Fri 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:40-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Sun 12-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Mon 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45 Tue 12-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:30-8-10:10 Mon 2:20-5:10-7:30-10:05 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:30-8-10:10 Wed-Thu 2:20-5:10-7:30-10:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10-10:15
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:30-2:40-3:50-6-6:40-7:10-9:15-10-10:30 Sat 11:10-12:30-2:40-3:50-6-6:40-7:10-9:15-10-10:30 Sun 12:30-2:40-3:50-6-6:40-7:10-9:15-10-10:30 Mon 1:10-2:30-4:20-6:30-7:40-8:20-9:50 Tue 12:30-2:40-3:50-6-6:40-7:10-9:15-10-10:30 Wed 1:10-2:30-4:20-6:30-7:40-8:20-9:50 Thu 1:50-2:30-5:30-6:30-8-9:30
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 2:30-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon 2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40 Tue 12:10-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Mon 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:30-7:20-10:15 Mon 4:30-7:15-10:10 Tue 4:30-7:20-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:15-10:10

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The Hunger Games: Catching Fire CONTRIBUTED

The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Black Nativity (G) Fri 3:40-9:45 Sat 7:10-9:45 Sun 3:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-10:20
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:20-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:10-10
Frozen (G) Fri 12:25-3:15 Sat 12-1:30-4:30 Sun 12:25-3:15 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:25
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:30-2:25-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun 12-2:35-4:45-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-7-9:50
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15-4-6:45-9:15 Sun 12:05-2:25-7:35-10:15 Mon-Wed 2-4:25-6:55-9:15 Thu 2-4:25-6:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 10:30
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:55-7:35-10:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:30-3:45-6-7-9:30-10:20 Sat 12:30-3:15-3:45-7-9:50-10:20 Sun 12:30-3:45-6-7-9:30-10:20 Mon 3:10-6:30-9:30-9:55 Tue-Thu 3:10-6-6:30-9:30-9:55 Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:50 Mon-Wed 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50
Naveena Saraswathi Sabatham (STC) Fri 12:10-6:15 Sat 11:45-6:30 Sun 12:10-6:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-6:55
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Sun 2:50-5:25-8:05-10:45 Mon 2:05-4:45-6:05-10:25 Tue-Wed 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:25 Thu 2:05-4:45-10:45
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Mon 7:30
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:55-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:35

Eglinton Town Centre 1901 Eglinton Ave. E.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Sun 12:05-3:20-6:40-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:35-6:40-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:35-6:40
The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:15-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-10
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:50-6:55-10 Sun 12:55-3:55-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10:25
Bullett Raja (PG) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:20-7:35-10:50 Sun 12:35-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-10:05
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:20 Sun 1:10-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 1:40-4:20-7-9:45 Sat 1:45-4:20-7-9:45 Sun 1-4:20-7-9:45 Mon-Tue 5:05-7:45-10:30 Wed 3:55-6:45-10:30 Thu 5:05-7:45-10:30
Die Hard (14A) Wed 9:30
Frozen (G) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:20 Sat 11:30 Sun 1:20-4:10-7 Mon-Wed 3:45-6:40 Thu 1:10-3:50-6:40 Sat 11-1:40-4:30-7:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:10-10:50 Sat 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:50 Sun 11:45-2:25-5:15-8-10:40 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:25-10:10 Thu 1:50-4:30-7:25-10:10
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Sat 11:15-1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20 Sun 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Mon-Wed 4:10-6:30-9:10 Thu 1:40-4:10-6:30-9:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10:15-10:30 No Passes Thu 10
Holiday Inn (STC) Sun 12:45
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:15 Mon-Wed 5-7:40-10:20 Thu 2:20-5-7:40-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12-3:20-6:45-10:15 Sat 11:45-3:20-6:45-10:15 Sun 11:45-3:10-6:30-10 Mon-Wed 5:30-9 Thu 2-5:30-9 Fri-Sat 12:40-4-7:30-11 Sun 12:25-3:50-7:15-10:45 Mon-Wed 3:30-7-10:30 Thu 2:45-6:15
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sat 10:05 Sun 9:50 Mon-Wed 9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Sat 12

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Philomena (PG) Fri 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun 11:55-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri 12:10-3:35-7:05-10:35 Sat 3:35-7:05-10:35 Sun 3:40-7:05-10:35 Mon-Wed 4:50-8:30 Thu 1:20-4:50-8:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 2:05 Sat 2:10 Sun 1:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5-7:55-10:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:40

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The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri 4:10-7-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:55 Mon 5:25-8:20 Tue 4:10-7-9:55 Wed 5:25-8:20 Thu 5:20-8:10
Black Nativity (G) Fri 4:55-7:20-9:45 Sat 12-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45 Sun 2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45 Mon 5:50-8:05 Tue 4:55-7:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 5:50-8:05
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:05 Sat 2-4:30-7:30-10:05 Sun 2-4:30-7:30-10 Mon 5:10-7:50 Tue 4:30-7:30-10:05 Wed 5:10-7:50 Thu 5:10-7:45
Free Birds (G) Sat 11:10-1:20 Sun 1:20 Mon 5:15 Wed 5:15
Frozen (G) Fri 4:20-6:55 Sat 11:05-1:30-4:20-6:55 Sun 1:30-4:20-6:55 Mon 5:05 Tue 4:20-6:55 Wed 5:05 Thu 4:45-7:20
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:15 Mon 5:40-8:15 Tue 5:15-7:50-10:25 Wed 5:40-8:15 Thu 5:40-8:45
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 5:45-8:10-10:30 Sat 3:30-5:45-8:10-10:30 Sun 3:30-5:45-7:55-10:10 Mon 6-8:30 Tue 5:45-8:10-10:30 Wed 6-8:30 Thu 4:50-7:10-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Homefront (14A) Fri 5:30-8-10:30 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 2:15-5:10-7:40-10:05 Mon 5:30-8 Tue 5:30-8-10:30 Wed 5:30-8 Thu 4:55-7:30-9:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 4-5-6-7:10-8:15-9:15-10:20 Sat 11:35-12:45-1:50-2:50-4-5-6-7:10-8:15-9:15-10:20 Sun 1-1:50-2:50-4-5-6-7:10-8:15-9:15-10:15 Mon 5-6:15-7:30-8:10 Tue 4-5-6-7:10-8:15-9:15-10:20 Wed 5-6:15-7:30-8:10 Thu 5-6-6:50-8:15-9:15
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sun 9:35 Mon 7:40 Tue 9:35 Wed 7:40 Thu 10
The Polar Express (G) Sat 11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 4:45 Sat 11:05-1:40-4:45 Sun 1:40-4:45 Mon 5:35 Tue 4:45 Wed 5:35 Thu 5:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 7:40-10:25 Sun 7:30-10:10 Mon 8:25 Tue 7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 8:25

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Bullett Raja (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-9:30
R... Rajkumar (STC) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:30
Thagaraaru (STC) Fri-Thu 7:30
Vidiyum Munn (STC) Fri-Thu 10:30

An old school undertaking

Miniseries. The cast of Bonnie & Clyde immersed themselves in their stories and each other's company

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Holliday Grainger and Emile Hirsch star in Bonnie & Clyde, which airs Sunday, Dec. 8 and Monday, Dec. 9 at 9 p.m. on Lifetime and History. CONTRIBUTED

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow began a two-year crime spree in 1932 that could never happen in 2013.

Sure, the fame-hungry robbers would be all over the Internet, posting selfies of Bonnie holding a pistol and chomping on a cigar on Instagram, but even if they were able to draw millions of followers on Twitter and maintain the public's interest for that amount of time, they couldn't have dodged the cops for that long.

"You couldn't have it (happen) now because there would be an amber alert like 12 minutes later," says Lane Garrison, who plays Clyde's brother Buck on the two-night miniseries Bonnie & Clyde.

The concept of people being products of their times was very much present in the minds of the Bonnie & Clyde cast, which also includes Holliday Grangier and Emile Hirsch in the respective title roles, William Hurt as the Texas Ranger who hunts them down and Sarah Hyland (Haley from Modern Family!) as Buck's wife. Garrison says they all read Jeff Guinn's book Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story of Bonnie & Clyde before coming onto the set.

"This was a young man dealing in the middle of the Depression era and they didn't have anything," says Garrison, who grew up in Dallas, where the gangsters are originally from. "They had no money and Buck lacked an education, so of course he took to a life of crime. For me, stepping into that character, it was really about understanding what motivated him and that was family, first and foremost."

To get that family feel, he and Hirsch also spent a good deal of time bro-ing out.

"Emile and I — two weeks out, before the shoot —we literally hung out 24/7," says Garrison. "We did everything together; I mean, stupid things like going gator-watching and we would work out together and we would go watch movies like they did, and I think by bonding us together — we're really tight, we talk all the time now and we're really good friends — I think that was the main part of knowing who this person was."

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5 things to look for as Grammy nominations approach

New Zealand singer Lorde will perform at the Grammy Awards nominations special this Friday. VICTORIA WILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is a great year to be a Grammy Awards prognosticator. There's been a lot of excellent music, but there are clear favourites as The Recording Academy prepares to unveil nominees Friday (a handful will be unveiled during a CBS special and the rest announced after it airs). The trends are pretty easy to define.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big winners

Homecoming dance

Remember how it felt in high school when you just knew who would be elected homecoming king and queen long before the big dance? The Grammy nominations have that feel with Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake a virtual lock to be two of the night's most popular picks, and probably top nominees. Swift's Red has sold 6 million copies, and though it came out in November 2012, it's had staying power.

Royal-ty

Breakout star

We offer up Lorde as this year's other likely multiple nominee. The 17-year-old from New Zealand stood in stark opposition to the swag-flavoured atmosphere of this year's singles market, offering up Royals. The song is a catchy refutation of popular culture that became something of an anthem for the dispossessed. Grammy voters love precocious teens and smart pop songs. Mix those things together and you've got Lorde.

White boy rap

Unlikely rap stars

Seattle-based Macklemore & Ryan Lewis have been the rap sensations of the pop world this year with hits like the quirky Thrift Shop and the same-sex acceptance song Same Love. They are strong contenders for record and song of the year, but will they dominate in rap categories along names like Drake and Kendrick Lamar?

All Pharrell, all the time

The singles

Two of the contenders for record and song of the year share a common denominator: Pharrell Williams. He helped Robin Thicke make Blurred Lines an inescapable part of 2013 and took a starring turn on Daft Punk's mind candy Get Lucky. Will he end up competing against himself if both are nominated for song or record of the year?

Fresh faces

Newcomers

Besides Lorde, Florida Georgia Line are strong contenders to be nominated for best new artist thanks to the success of Cruise, with Nelly. There could be two rap contenders: Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Kendrick Lamar, the platinum-selling critical darling of the rap world.

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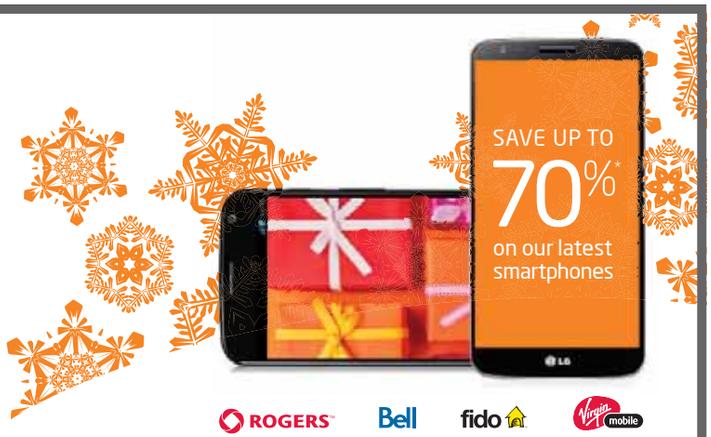

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Paltrow's festive Kors collection too rich for most people's blood

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Last month,we found out that Gwyneth Paltrow and Michael Kors would create a special holiday collection for Goop, Paltrow's lifestyle site. Well, that day has come, people. The line — which consists of some of the Oscar-winner's favourite Kors pieces, but updated — debuts on the site Thursday and includes a high-end suede tote, an oversized gold watch, leather smoking slippers, a cashmere cape, a grey structured peplum sweater and a military-inspired wool coat. But like the clothes you imagine Gwynnie creating her organic meals in, these threads veer on the luxe side. The items range in price from $145 for a bracelet to $2,595 for the cosy cape. Something a bit more universal: Kors' grandmother's recipe for easy-to-make butter cookies.

Twitter

@kirstiealley
oh lord how I love to make people laugh ..and vice versa ! We all need somethin to make us float off to happy land..and Sitcom is Drug free

@DanaDelany
Just opened a jar of honey vintage 1996. Did you know it's the only food that doesn't spoil? Besides Twinkies, of course.

Will Miranda complete Sex and the City trilogy?

Cynthia Nixon ALL IMAGES GETTY

While Cynthia Nixon may have shot down the idea of a third Sex and the City film, co-star Kristin Davis is still holding out hope. "I'm going to have a little talk with Cynthia the next time I see her," Davis tells Haute Living magazine. "I don't think (a third film) is a pipe dream. There is a discussion. People talk about it amongst the people who are the players, but I don't know if it will come together. It would be very exciting if it did."

*Conditions apply. Vouchers are rewarded for in-store bookings made with a Flight Centre travel agent. For full details visit www.flightcentre.ca/enquiry/travel-enquiry/consumer-incentive. Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384 tico.ca

Liquid Assets

Liqueur in the spotlight

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

The term liqueur covers a lot of ground — from decadent, cream-based combinations, all the way to secret blends of herbs and spices. Most have a life outside of the holiday season, but I bet that for the majority of you buying a bottle in December is your yearly liqueur fix.

There's something sad about that. The liqueur market has never been more vibrant, venturing into innovation territory any other booze category would fear to tread.

Not that the old standbys are resting on their liquid laurels. Bailey's has introduced new flavoured family members and even Grand Marnier has dipped its cap in the pool of fruity expression, creating a special series of alternative versions.

Never to be outdone, Mexico's Kahlúa Limited Edition Gingerbread Liqueur (375 ml, $15.49 - $16.99) starts with the classic mix of rum and Arabica coffee and then adds gingerbread, nutmeg, cinnamon and clove. It results in a seasonal treat that's great over ice or as fuel in your favourite cup of joe. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Gingerbread graduates to a grown-up torte

Almond-Chocolate Gingerbread Torte.
Decadent treat features quintessential holiday flavour with chocolate and almonds

This recipe serves 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

Chocolate Ganache Glaze
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) whipping cream
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) light corn syrup
- 250 ml (1 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Cake
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) molasses
- 2 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 10 ml (2 tsp) ground ginger
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) allspice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) buttermilk
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) toasted slivered almonds, divided
- Chocolate Ganache Glaze
- 75 to 125 ml (1/3 to 1/2 cup) apricot or peach preserves

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Coat two 23-cm (9-inch) round layer cake pans with vegetable spray.

2. In a mixer bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Beat in sugar, then molasses to blend. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in vanilla.

3. In another bowl, sift dry ingredients. Beat into butter mix just to blend. Mix in buttermilk. Coarsely chop 75 ml (1/3 cup) of almonds; mix into batter. Pour into prepared pans, dividing equally and smoothing tops. Bake in centre of oven 15 minutes, just until springy to the touch. Let cool in pans on racks for 5 minutes, then turn out onto racks to cool completely.

4. Meanwhile, prepare glaze. In saucepan over medium heat, bring whipping cream and corn syrup to a boil. Remove from heat and mix in chocolate chips until smooth. Let cool until mixture is thick enough to spread on cake. Set aside.

5. Place one cake layer on a serving plate; cover with preserves and drizzle with glaze. Top with remaining cake layer. Spread glaze evenly over top and sides of torte. Garnish with remaining almonds. Let glaze set for at least 1 hour before serving.

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Just opened: P&L Burger

Hot off the heels of their CMT Burger Wars win for favourite patty in Toronto, Parts & Labour has just opened up a satellite burger shop, aptly named P&L Burger, found at 507 Queen St. W. The new joint serves up seven wonderfully greasy and delicious burgers, like the famed P&L Burger and the spicy The Italian.

Just opened: The Dock Ellis

Opening just a couple weeks ago near Dundas and Dovercourt (at 1280 Dundas St. W. to be exact), The Dock Ellis is a sports bar for people who aren't typically into sports bars. Makes sense since it's located in hipster heaven. Sophisticated bar snacks are on the menu, like nachos topped with brisket and tasty milk buns.

Just opened: Fonda Lola

At 942 Queen St. W. you'll now find Fonda Lola, a permanent spot for the pop-up turned restaurant. Yes... it's Mexican (guess we won't be seeing that trend dying down anytime soon), but Fonda Lola's tacos are tried-and-true foodie favourites, so you're in for some crazy good eats alongside crafty tequila-based cocktails.

Just opened: Sandoozles

While the smokehouse trend was so 2012, Sandoozles Smokehouse & Pub seeks to reignite your love of the Southern twang. This resto, found at 709 Mount Pleasant Rd., has a sandwich-focused menu of tasty eats. Evidently the cocktail list will be created by Tequila Tromba's Eric Brass, and the dishes are certainly in the league of "cheap eats."

25th Annual Matzoball

The Annual Matzoball party is back, going down on Dec. 24 at 6 Degrees (2335 Yonge St.). This massive Jewish-centric shindig will see Toronto's top DJs spinning mad like a dreidel as hundreds of hip and happening 20-somethings bump 'n' grind the night away. Brought to us by the Jewish National Fund, Magen Boys Entertainment and ZT Events, this is one event you don't want to miss.

Just opened: Boots & Bourbon Saloon

From the genius behind Rock Lobster Food Co. comes new East End country bar Boots & Bourbon Saloon, found at 725 Queen St. E. The new restaurant/bar/country jamboree boasts cocktails aplenty, comfort food, line dancing lessons and live music — the latter of which will be a heavy draw for the cool space.

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Thumb through these choices for the bibliophile on your list — PAGE 46

Playing in the snow is a favourite pastime for boys of all ages — PAGE 51

Real Christmas trees enhance the senses during the holidays — PAGE 54

19 shopping days left

NATALIA KIRICHENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOLIDAY 2013 gift guide

For more holiday gift ideas, please visit holiday.metronews.ca

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Festive flicks to enjoy with the family

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

It's time to settle in with the family for a night of holiday fun watching your favourite festive videos.

Metro asked Dave Bullard, purchasing manager for Movie Experts Inc. in Toronto, to choose some popular movie titles for the holiday season.

Home Alone (1990)

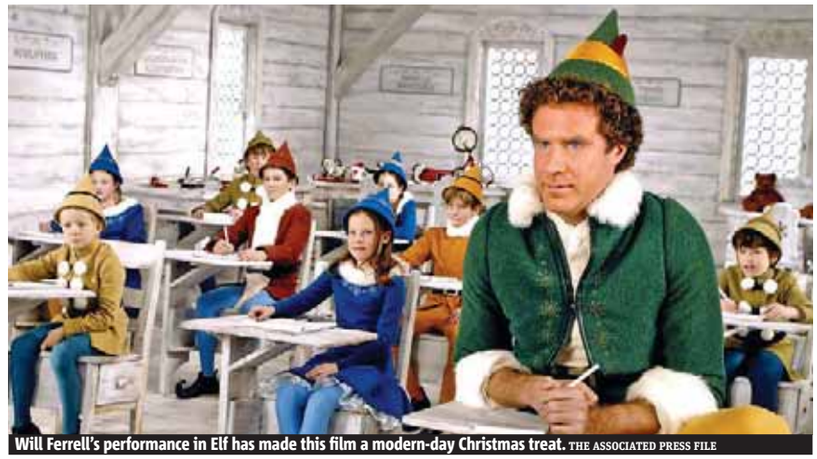
Starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, and Daniel Stern. An eight-year-old boy, accidentally left behind by his family, must defend his home against idiotic burglars. Mischievous, almost cartoonish, fun for all ages. Don't miss John Candy as Gus Polinski, polka king of the Midwest.

Elf (2003)

Starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, and Bob Newhart. The story of a young child who was adopted by Christmas elves, then returns to the human world to find his father and his true identity. Ferrell's performance as an oversized elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, and Juliette Lewis. The Griswold family gathers for Christmas where nothing seems to go right. Shocking at times and quite hilarious, it's a Christmas movie that has become regular holiday viewing for many.



Will Ferrell's performance in Elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A Christmas Story (1983)

Starring Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, and Melinda Dillon. A boy's yearning to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas and all the trials and tribulations that go into getting one. The film just has so many memorable movie moments, like the tongue stuck on the pole, that are hard to forget.

The Santa Clause (1994)

Starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, and Wendy Crewson. A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Clause and, in doing so, assumes the mantle of being jolly old St. Nick. Allen shines as a reluctant Santa Clause, so much so that it spawned two sequels.

Scrooged (1988)

Starring Bill Murray, Karen Allen, and John Forsythe. An updated take on the classic A Christmas Story, with Murray taking on the role of a wicked man with little time left to change his ways. A fresh take on a holiday classic with loads of cameo appearances. Murray is slimy and reprehensible, which makes him the perfect Scrooge.

Scoot & Kassie's Christmas Adventure (2013)

Starring Luke Perry, Ariana Bagley, and Taylor Negron. New this holiday season, Kassie and her friends have organized a charity concert for less-fortunate kids, but when two crooks steal the cash, Kassie's pet dog Scoot leads an unlikely group of heroes to catch the bad guys and save Christmas. A heartwarming charmer that will have the whole family cheering.

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Newberry Gold Dress, $39.99, available at Sears, sears.ca.

Love Shirt, $14.95, top, available at H&M, hm.com/ca, and Lazypants Stonewash Pink, $90, available at TNT, Sporting Life, Honey, shoplazypants.com.

Girls Classic Cardigan, $19, available at Joe Fresh, joefresh.com.

Mixed Glitter-Toe High-Tops, $27.94, available at Old Navy, oldnavy.ca

Pants, Isabel Pourant Collection, $49.95, available at H&M stores, hm.com/ca.

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Season's readings

Kobo Aura HD — $169.99.

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Don't just buy the bookworm on your list another paperback. Think outside the box and get them some tech they can use to enhance their reading experiences.

Kindle Paperwhite — $139 and up

Amazon's popular eReader has undergone an upgrade, just in time for Christmas. The latest model features a faster processor, higher contrast screen, and a next-gen lighting system that is brighter and more uniform than before. For those who read on the go, splurge for the 3G model, which lets you download books without Wi-Fi and no monthly fees.

Kobo Aura HD — $169.99

Text so crisp and clear you will forget you are reading on an electronic device. Kobo Aura HD features an ultra-high resolution display with 265 dpi, higher than most eReaders on the market. It also features 10 styes of font, letting you customize your reading experience. Kobo remains a Wi-Fi only device.

Classic Novel eReader Covers — $24 and up

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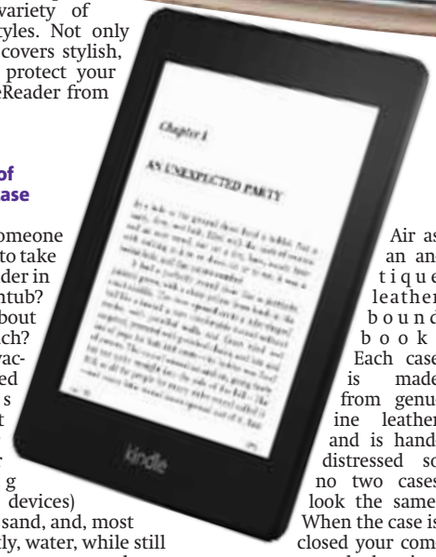
DryCASE waterproof eReader case — $66.98



Know someone who likes to take their eReader in the bathtub? How about the beach? These vacuum sealed pouches protect your eReader (among other devices) from dirt, sand, and, most importantly, water, while still allowing you to use them. They also have built-in headphone and microphone jacks. Not the sexiest case, but it beats using a plastic bag.

BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — $79.99 and up

These stylish cases disguise your MacBook or MacBook Air as an antique leather bound book. Each case is made from genuine leather and is hand-distressed so no two cases look the same. When the case is closed your computer looks just like a book, helping to mask it from the eyes of thieves.

Book Rest Lamp — $64.54

Place your favourite book on top of the light base to create a stylish reading light. Or simply use the base as a bookmark. The frosted glass helps disperse light, making it perfect by which to read.

Blurb Self Publishing — Various prices

A great gift for the creative person on your list. Blurb lets anyone publish a novel, cookbook, photo book or magazine through its online service. Upload the text and photos, pick a layout and wait as the finished professional product is mailed to you. Gift card options are available.

BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — $79.99 and up, clockwise, from top, Classic Novel eReader Covers — $24 and up, Blurb Self Publishing — various prices, Book Rest Lamp — $64.54, DryCASE waterproof eReader case — $66.98, and Kindle Paperwhite — $139 and up.

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Holiday glamour

Foxy Originals Downtown Deco Empire Necklace, $52, available at Foxyoriginals.com.

Swarovski Knot Ring, $120, available at Swarovski, swarovski.ca.

Tiffany sterling silver Atlas Lariat, $275, available at Tiffany, tiffany.ca.

Baublebar Crystal Diadem Drops earrings, $34 US, available at baublebar.com.

Banana Republic Turqoise Statement Necklace, $134, available at Banana Republic, bananarepublic.ca.

Swatch Escaille watch with plastic tortoise shell strap, $75, available at department stores, swatch.com.

Haitian Hand-Beaded Necklace, $100, available at worldvision.ca/gifts or via 1-800-844-7993.

Believe crystal bracelets with grosgrain ribbon, $105 each, available at Mika Designs, 514-748-5630.

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Cat DJ Scratch Pad, $35, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Kitty's Christmas

Pet Stocking, $6, available at Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca

Pet Valu Premium Catnip, $1.99-$5.29, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

KYJen Christmas Antlers, $4.99-$7.99, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

Jump Sushi Box With Catnip Toys, $11.99, available at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

Motorola video pet monitor, $299.99-$399.99, available at PetSmart, petsmart.com

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DOWN UNDER
Hibernating for the winter? Get a new cozy duvet to burrow into at Down Under. (Market Level)

FRAGMENTS
Make her eyes sparkle with the gift of glitter! From necklaces to rings, Fragments has all your jewellery needs. (Market Level)

TIM HORTONS
Give the gift of coffee this year from everyone's favourite coffee shop! (College Street & Market Level)

WINNERS
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JANINE FALCON
For Metro

The latest and greatest for good hair, comfortable skin, easy grooming and a fantastic smile, too.

Aveda Invati thickening hair care — exfoliating shampoo, thickening conditioner and scalp revitalizer. From $30 to $69 via Aveda salons, spas and stores.

Biotherm Homme Special-Edition Skincare gift set ($52 via biotherm.ca) and **Rob Stewart's Revolution** ($15 via Target, Futureshop and therevolutionmovie.com) are sold separately, but together make a great underwater adventure theme gift. Both contribute to charities that protect global ocean resources.

Braun CoolTec Shaver is the first dry electric razor that cools skin during use to reduce shaving irritation. From $149.99 at London Drugs and Best Buy. See braun.com for more retailers.

Clarisonic Aria is the latest version of the lauded skin care cleansing system. It's more streamlined, travel-friendly, has three speeds and comes in black. $225 at Shoppers Drug Mart beauty boutiques and Sephora.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer wakes skin up with antioxidants vitamins C and E as well as soy. Heavy Lifting Firming Moisturizer helps get rid of flaky patches, minimizes fine lines and improves elasticity and firmness. $30 and $40 at Kiehls stores and kiehls.ca.

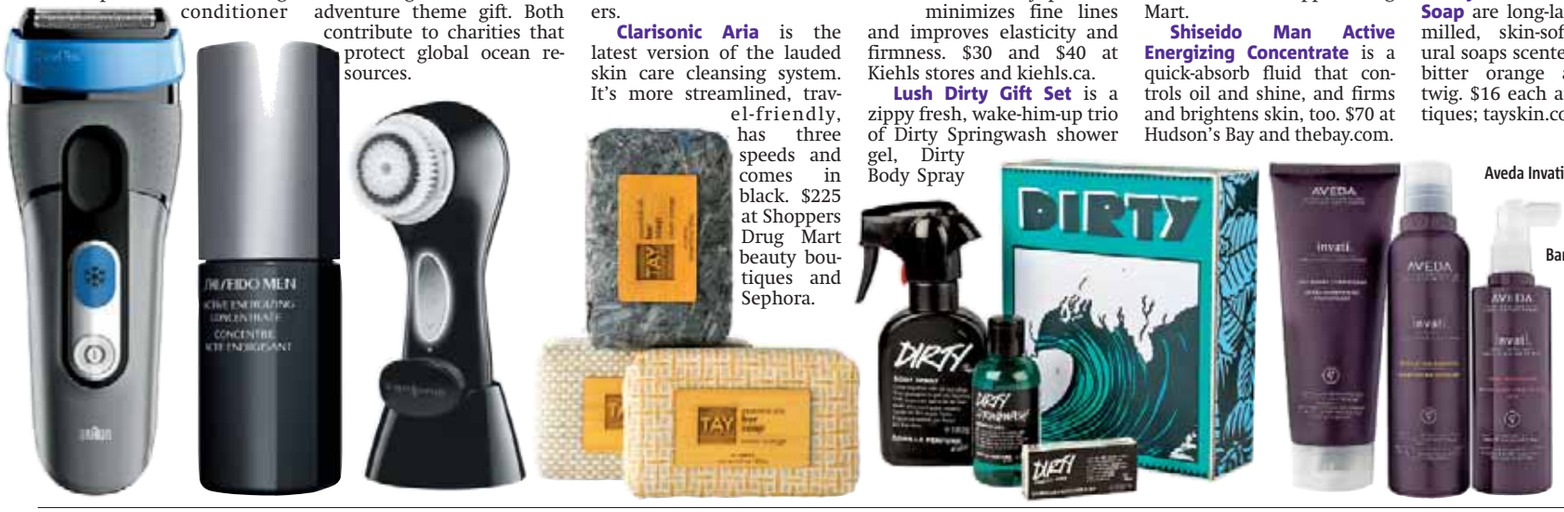
Lush Dirty Gift Set is a zippy fresh, wake-him-up trio of Dirty Springwash shower gel, Dirty Body Spray and refreshing Dirty Toothy Tabs. $44.95 at Lush stores and lush.ca.

Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover swiftly and painlessly buffs away rough, dry skin to leave feet smooth and comfortable. $49.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart.

Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate is a quick-absorb fluid that controls oil and shine, and firms and brightens skin, too. $70 at Hudson's Bay and thebay.com.

Sonicare Black Diamond-Clean Electric Toothbrush delivers 31,000 brush strokes in two minutes, whiter teeth in seven days, and improved gum health in two weeks. Comes with USB rechargeable case. $229.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Target and London Drugs.

Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap are long-lasting, triple-milled, skin-softening natural soaps scented with zesty bitter orange and orange twig. $16 each at select boutiques; tayskin.com.



Aveda Invati, clockwise, from left, Lush Dirty Gift Set, Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap, Clarisonic Aria, Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate, Braun CoolTec Shaver, Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer, and Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover.

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Stormtrooper Vinyl Bobblehead, $11.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

The Mortal Instruments Box Set, $49.99, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

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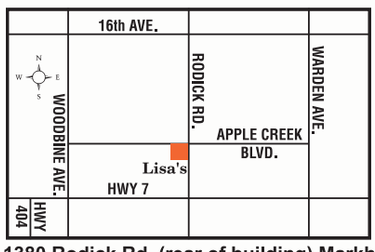

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14

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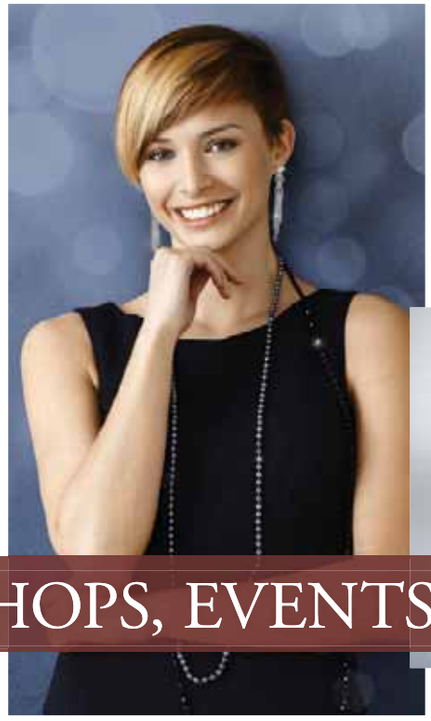
126-piece All Media Ultimate Art Set, $60, available at Michael's, michaels.com.

Tassel Wrap Journal, $18, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



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Rona Glue Gun, $5.99, available at Rona stores, rona.ca.

Collection Canada 2013 Coffee Table Book, $72.95, available in Canada Post offices, canadapost.ca.

Eight-inch Splashing Game Fish Clock, $23.95, available at urbannaturestore.ca

Keeping active

Compact Curling, $19.99, available at independent toy retailers, borgfeldt.ca.

K2 Entity Snow Helmet, $61, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

Yoga Mat, $20.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Halti Kirri Jacket, $130, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

SPORTS Bike Cap,$14.95, available at chic-savvy.com.

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Pick a Christmas tree that makes the cut

Choices. Firs have taken over from pine trees when it comes to real trees in the home

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

All Christmas trees are beautiful — even Charlie Brown's scrawny little twig was a winner once it was all jacked up with decorations.

But if you are a bit fussier, here is a list of some of the most popular trees with the help of Arthur Loewen, president of the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association.

At one time, the pine tree was the No. 1 holiday tree, but this wide, heavy, long-needled tree has been replaced in popularity by the fir, a lighter, thinner, short-needled tree grown in many varieties across the country.

Native to Canada's East Coast, the Balsam fir is a nice-looking, hardy tree that sells for a relatively good price.

"It keeps moderately well, has rigid stems that don't sag when you hang decorations, and it has a thin trunk, which makes it easier to handle and put into a stand," Loewen said.

Gaining in popularity is the Fraser fir, also found primarily in Eastern Canada, but also in the west. It's pricier for a few reasons.

"It's the best needle keeper when you bring it inside," Loewen said. "It's lightweight, narrow, has the most rigid branches, and tends to last longer than the Balsam.

But the big reason for the extra cost is that there is more work in raising a Fraser fir to harvest. They take longer to grow than other firs, they grow best in dry areas and are more prone to disease and insects.

In the West, the Douglas fir tops the list.

"It matures quickly, so it's not as expensive to grow," Loewen said.

However, it doesn't last as long and the branches do sag a bit more than the more expensive Noble fir, also native to the West.

"The Noble fir is much like the Fraser, except it has a bluish colour," Loewen said.

Priced like the Fraser, this "king of the Christmas trees" grows slowly but does well as a holiday tree.

Christmas Tree Day

The Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association has declared Dec. 7 as National Christmas Tree Day.

- Canada harvests approximately 2.5 millions trees annually
- More than 34,600 hectares (76,700 acres) were used for growing Christmas trees in Canada in 2011.
- There were 2,381 Christmas tree plantations in Canada in 2001.
- Each hectare produces enough oxygen for 40 people.
- For more, visit canadianchristmastrees.ca.

Real Christmas trees can help enhance the holiday experience. PRESSMASTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

The gift of time

Longines Conquest Two Tone Pink Gold watch, $3,250, visit longines.com for an authorized retailer.

Ironman Sleek 50-Lap, $79.99, available at Running Room, runningroom.com.

OMEGA Ladies Seamaster Aqua Terra, $7,100, visit omegawatches.com for an authorized retailer.

Tissot Pendant 1878 160th Anniversary, $8,800, visit tissot.ch to find a retailer.

Runtastic GPS and Heart Rate Monitor, $150, available at Indigo, indigo.ca.

Cookoo Bluetooth watch, $129.99, available at Indigo, indigo.ca.

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CFL

Argos hire Burke as new defensive co-ordinator

The Toronto Argonauts hired Tim Burke as their new defensive co-ordinator.

Burke replaces Chris Jones, who last month was named head coach of the Edmonton Eskimos.

Burke served as head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers from August 2012 through the 2013 season before being relieved of those duties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alpine skiing

Vonn makes her return on Friday

Lindsey Vonn has declared that she is ready to race for the first time in 10 months.

Vonn said she will return to competition in a World Cup downhill on Friday in Lake Louise, Alta., for the first time since a crash at the world championships in February, when she tore two ligaments in her right knee and broke a bone in her lower leg.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How bad was it?

"What we had in pre-season was probably the worst put-together squad in the history of the league."

Toronto FC head coach Ryan Nelsen doesn't mince words when it comes to the team's roster prior to the 2013 MLS season. Nelsen believes the roster will be much improved, though the team is still on the lookout for key players.

Groin injury keeping winger out of the Lup

Maple Leafs. Lupul continually held back from games so as not to aggravate muscle

Joffrey Lupul didn't come off the ice slamming his stick this time.

That's what he did a day earlier, however, in a show of frustration with the groin injury he's dealing with. From one day to the next, the Toronto Maple Leafs winger doesn't know exactly how much progress to expect when he tries to skate.

"It's frustrating," Lupul said Thursday morning. "I feel like I'm getting closer, but at this point I can't risk re-aggravating or anything.... You don't want to have any days where you go back from whatever 80 per cent to 60 per cent, that's not good."

Lupul missed his fifth straight game when the Leafs hosted the Dallas Stars at Air Canada Centre. He hasn't played since Nov. 25 and there's no official time frame on his return to the lineup.

Though he didn't rule out playing Saturday at the Ottawa Senators, Lupul didn't sound too optimistic about that possibility.

"It's too hard to say right now," he said. "Certainly there's some improvements that need to be made first."

Groin injuries aren't ones that players can just power through because they involve the muscles needed to skate. Lupul would be ineffective if he returned too soon and would risk aggravating the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More on the Leafs

For coverage of the game between the Leafs and Stars on Thursday night, go to metronews.ca.

Maple Leafs winger Joffrey Lupul has not played since Nov. 25 due to a groin injury. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Wing man. 'Possessed' angle working for Benn

Jamie Benn GETTY IMAGES FILE

Jamie Benn can't always get what he wants.

Over the summer Benn wanted to be invited to Team Canada's Olympic orientation camp and named captain of the Dallas Stars. Hockey Canada didn't put him on the list but Benn did become the NHL's third-youngest captain.

Funny thing is, those parallel events have combined to make Benn something of a force this season and a legitimate candidate to represent Canada in Sochi. That spark started with being snubbed from camp.

"He really is playing like a possessed player," Stars coach and Team Canada assistant Lindy Ruff said. "He's done some great things for our team.

"He's led our team in a lot of categories. There's been nights where we needed big plays and big goals, there's been nights where we needed physical play and he's really supplied almost everything."

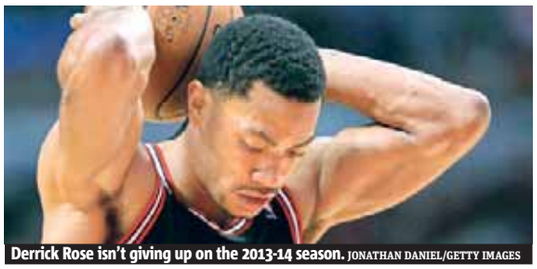
Benn has seven goals and 18 assists in his first 26 games. The 24-year-old was a centre earlier in his career with the Stars, but the off-season acquisition of Tyler Seguin from the Boston Bruins allowed Benn to move back to his more natural position on the wing.

That move could also help Benn make Team Canada, which is stacked at centre with Sidney Crosby, Jonathan Toews, John Tavares and many others. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

No purchase necessary. Full contest details available at clubmetro.com

Bulls' Rose not wilting after latest injury



Derrick Rose isn't giving up on the 2013-14 season. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

NBA. Superstar PG leaves door slightly open for return in playoffs

Derrick Rose isn't wavering.

He still sees himself as a star, a cornerstone player, despite another major knee injury that brought his long-awaited return to a screeching halt. So he wasn't quite sure what to make of the idea.

Is it time for the Chicago Bulls to move on, to abandon the idea of building around him, given his injuries?

"What can I say to that?" Rose said. Then, after a pause, he added, "You could be a fool if you want to. Dead serious. I know I'm going to be all right."

In fact, he's not quite ruling out a return this season.

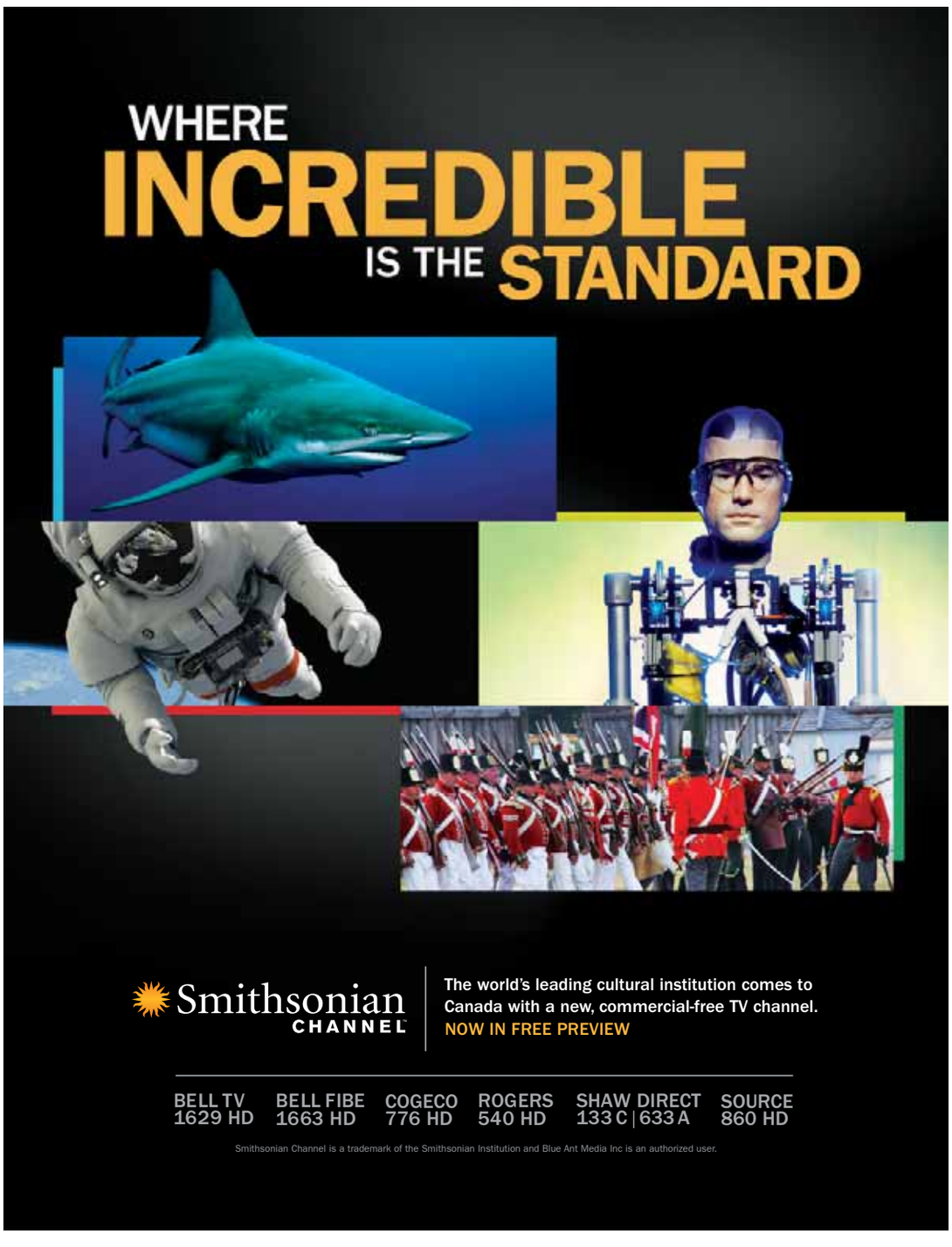
Tough talk

"If I'm healthy and my meniscus is fully healed, of course I'll be out there playing."

Bulls injured point guard Derrick Rose

The superstar point guard left the door slightly open for a comeback in the playoffs if his surgically repaired right knee is healed — even though the team said he will miss the rest of the year. Rose tore the medial meniscus in his right knee in a game at Portland on Nov. 22. He had surgery in Chicago three days later, ending his comeback after he sat out last season recuperating from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Looking south

Will Brazil provide TFC with saviour?

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

Since the team's inception, Brazil has been Toronto FC's Shangri-La — the place where imaginary stars come from.

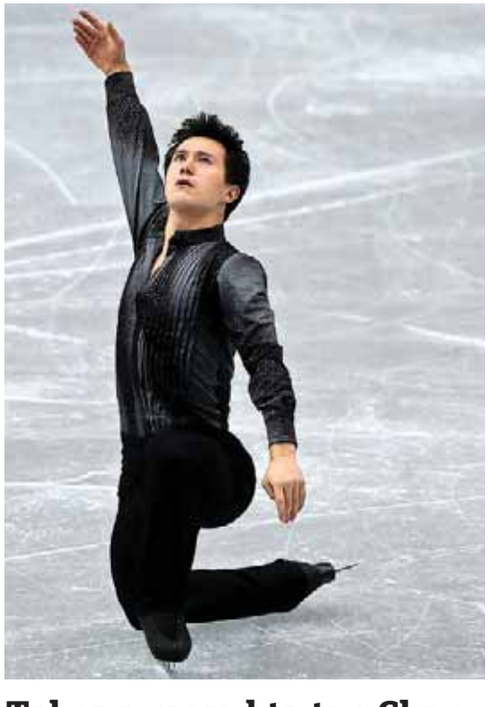
But team brass has never managed to come out of the Amazon with a completed contract.

That could be changing within days. Toronto FC is close to signing their first potential superstar from the sentimental home of world soccer.

That player is 24-year-old Gilberto Oliveira Souza Jr., known as Gilberto. The Portuguesa striker is currently the fifth-leading scorer in his country's top league, the Brasiliero.

If it comes off — and deals out of South America are always fraught — Gilberto represents a new genus in MLS. He is one of the first youngsters who will choose North America over more glittering European options.

Go to metronews.ca for more about Gilberto from Cathal Kelly.



Takes a record to top Chan

Canada's Patrick Chan skates during Day 1 of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final on Thursday in Fukuoka, Japan. Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan beat Chan of Canada with a record score of 99.84 to lead after the short program. Chan finished with an 87.47. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

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Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4			6		9		1
			5		4		3	2
	7	3			5		8	
			2		6			
	8		1			4	9	
9	2		7		1			
8		6		9			7	3

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	4	7	3	6	8	2	5
2	5	6	1	8	4	3	7	9
3	8	7	9	2	5	1	6	4
6	4	9	3	7	1	5	8	2
5	7	8	2	4	9	6	3	1
1	3	2	5	6	8	9	4	7
8	6	5	4	9	7	2	1	3
7	2	1	6	5	3	4	9	8
4	9	3	8	1	2	7	5	6

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be a nice guy by nature but most likely you will refuse to come to the rescue of someone who is in distress today. It may seem heartless but you know it's the only way they are going to learn.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Too often you have held back while those with less talent have achieved the kind of success that should have been yours. It's time to shed your inhibitions and let the world see what a star you really are.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may be under pressure to apologize for something you said to a friend or colleague but is that wise? Not if you truly meant it. Besides, why give them the impression that you can be easily swayed?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be behind in your schedule but don't worry about it. If anything you should be aiming to conserve your energy now, if only because by the early part of next week you will be working harder than ever.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There are only so many hours in a day, so identify your priorities and don't try to do everything at once. Aim for quality rather than quantity in all things at all times. One way or another it will be enough.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have good reason to be annoyed with someone but because you are an agreeable individual you may allow them to wriggle out of it just by saying the right words. That would be a mistake. Don't forgive so easily.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's not like you to look back and wish things had been different but that may be your attitude today. OK, so you could have done a lot of things differently and some things better but that's life. Only ever look forwards.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Everything is going according to plan and even though you may not get all the things you desire today you will certainly get all the things you need. The cosmos, as always, is looking over and looking after you, so why worry?

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may not be the best in certain areas but in one field of endeavor you have no equals and that is what you should be focusing on now. Don't try to be all things to all men, just be yourself .

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Close your ears to criticism and don't waste time trying to get even with those who have let you down or said hurtful things. They're not worth the effort. Time is too precious to waste on petty people and personal vendettas.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point complaining about a certain person's behavior when what they are doing now is what they did yesterday and the day before that. It's in their nature, so either accept it or move away from their influence.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You need more fun in your life but you won't get it hanging at the same places doing the same things with the same people. The planets are urging you to be more adventurous. Life is a gamble or it's nothing.

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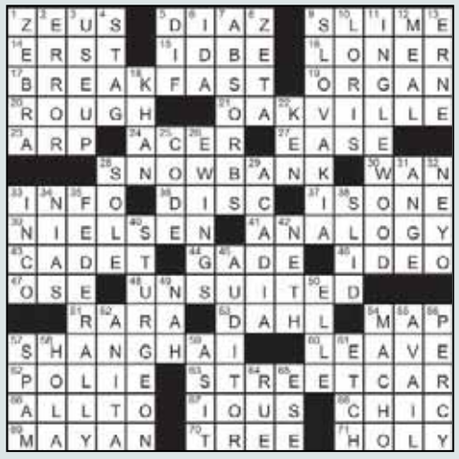
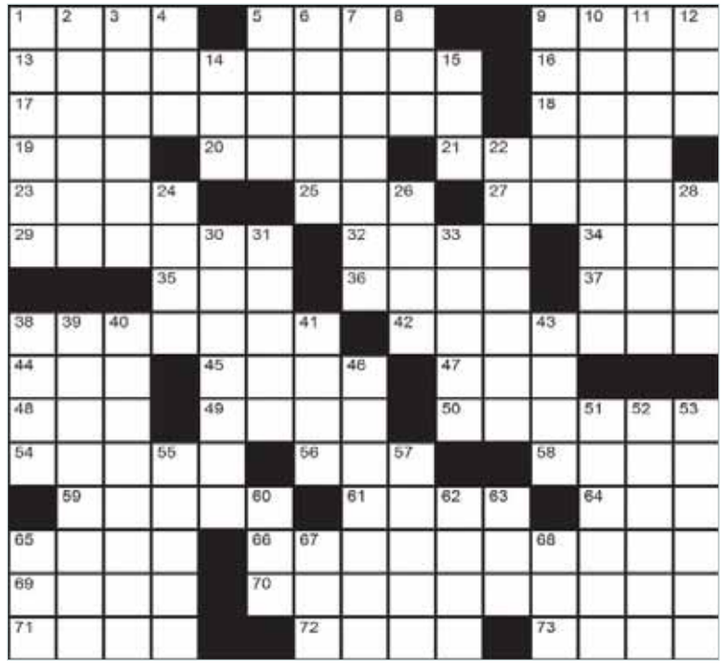


Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. Abodes-in-buildings, e.g.
5. Labels
9. Biblical boats
13. E! Canada host who previously hosted "So You Think You Can Dance Canada": 2 wds.
16. Bulk containers
17. London, ON's nickname: 2 wds.
18. Meat cut
19. Univ. paper
20. Incite
21. Be an active volcano
23. Old music high notes
25. Pick-up-sticks game
27. "__ There Yet?" (2005): 2 wds.
29. Teeth-related
32. Head's holder
34. Headed
35. "Bravo!"
36. Ex-VP Al
37. Papua New Guinea seaport
38. "The Daily Show" host Jon
42. London, ON university
44. Legume
45. Lady Gaga song
47. Lady's man
48. Computer key
49. Actress Ms. Cannon
50. Does canine work
54. __ beaucoup!
56. Veggie of Japan
58. Venus de __ (Ancient statue)
59. Lost & __
61. Waning waves
64. "Platoon" (1986) war, for short
65. Designer, Christian __ (b.1905 - d.1957)
66. PM Harper's hockey book: 3 wds.
69. Prefix meaning 'High'
70. Canadian actress who starred in 1933's "42nd Street": 2 wds.
71. "__, __ have you decided yet?" (Er, like, did you make up your mind?)
72. Wall St. landmark, commonly
73. Fewer

Down

1. Bruce Wayne's butler
2. Celebrity magazine
3. Scottish pattern
4. "__-Devil" (1989)
5. Musician Mr. Puente
6. Rio Tinto __ (Aluminum company based in Montreal)
7. Soaring
8. Band's performance
9. "It's all _ __." (Foggy memory comment)
10. Canadian painter, Jean Paul __ (b.1923 - d.2002)
11. Sweaters and scarves
12. US tax ID
14. Food additive
15. Deli bread
22. Makes much money: 2 wds.
24. Pack
26. Cat call
28. Apple/snake lieu
30. 1992 Disney animated flick
31. "Madame Curie" (1943) director, Mervyn __
33. Salad green
38. Internet junk
39. Cinematic federal agency, __ Canada
40. Have carrots or potatoes, basically: 2 wds.
41. "Heart and Soul" '80s group
43. Hair salon task
46. BC city in the northern Okanagan
51. Conclusion
52. Scotiabank Saddledome team
53. Actress/entrepreneur Suzanne
55. Oddity
57. Does as instructed
60. __ es Salaam, Tanzania
62. Create cupcakes
63. Fr. holy woman
65. Brother's sis, to Mom [abbr.]
67. Son-of-a-__
68. Collective Soul song

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